

0505. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Le Chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart  
Maître de Musique / à / Manheim*<sup>1</sup>

*Mon très cher Fils!*<sup>2</sup>

Salzburg, 19<sup>th</sup> Novb., 1778

I do not know what I should write – I shall yet go out my mind [5] or die of consumption. It is impossible for me to recall all the projects which you have had in your mind since your departure from Salzburg, and which you write to me about, without losing my sound common sense as a result. It was all based on suggestions, empty words, and in the end nothing at all came of it. Now, when I had with the greatest pleasure been cherishing hopes since 26<sup>th</sup> *September*<sup>3</sup> [10] – calming my mind by hoping to see you in Salzburg on your name-day,<sup>4</sup> I had to withstand the first mortal terror when you wrote<sup>5</sup> from *Nancy* on the 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tomorrow, the 4<sup>th</sup>, we travel to Strasburg; and on the 9<sup>th</sup> Frank Brothers wrote<sup>6</sup> that you have not yet arrived. Finally, you wrote to me from Strasburg, but not until the 14<sup>th</sup>.<sup>7</sup> During your stay in Nancy, [15] therefore, money was thrown out of the window, since, instead of using up money there unnecessarily, you should have taken an opportunity to reach Strasburg on your own and could have used the money to get to Strasburg faster. Then you sat in Strasburg until the clouds opened,<sup>8</sup> although I had written to you there in advance that if there was nothing to be done, [20] you should leave at once and not use up money unnecessarily and although you had written<sup>9</sup> to me yourself that the way things move there is very *pauvre*,<sup>10</sup> that you are giving a little concert on the 17<sup>th</sup> and will then set off at once: only they praised you, – and that alone is enough for you! You stayed where you were – without writing a single word to me, giving me my second attack of mortal fear, since we had the high water [25] and rain here as well, and all of us were only delivered from the anguish of our hearts on 10<sup>th</sup> Novemb. by your letter<sup>11</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. If you had left on the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> after the *concert*<sup>12</sup> on 17<sup>th</sup> October, you would have been in Augsp.<sup>13</sup> before the great downpour and we would have been liberated from all our anxiety, and the money used up uselessly in Strasb. would have stayed in the purse. [30] The next message is: He is setting off on the 5<sup>th</sup>, as Herr Scherz<sup>14</sup> wrote. I then hoped on every post-day for news from Augsp. that you had arrived: but we are always told: He has not arrived yet – and a letter<sup>15</sup> of 13 Nov. even maintained that you would not be coming at all any more; so – since I had still not seen any letter from you until today, the 19<sup>th</sup>, I quite naturally had my 3<sup>rd</sup> attack of anxiety, [35] since I would never have dreamt of the clownish idea that you would stay in Manheim, when the court is no longer there, and consequently I could believe that you would long since have been in Augspurg by the 10<sup>th</sup>, indeed, this

<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Knight, music director in Mannheim”.

<sup>2</sup> = “My very dear son!”

<sup>3</sup> BD: The date on which Mozart left Paris, cf. No. 0493/10-11.

<sup>4</sup> BD: 31<sup>st</sup> October.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0494/47-48.

<sup>6</sup> BD: No. 0499 (lost).

<sup>7</sup> BD: Actually the 15<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Mentioned in No. 0503/56-57.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0496/80 ff.

<sup>10</sup> = “impoverished”.

<sup>11</sup> BD: No. 0503, began on 26<sup>th</sup> October, finished on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1778. Cf. No. 0503/50.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Mentioned in Nos. 0496/80 ff.; 0503/6 ff.

<sup>13</sup> Augsburg.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0490/56-57, 68, 70. Johann Georg Scherz, Strasbourg correspondent for the Salzburg mercantile firm Haffner.

<sup>15</sup> BD: No. 0504a, lost; possibly from Augsburg.

belief was all the more certain because I thought you would lose no time in coming promptly to Munich, where, as I had already conjectured when you left *Nancy* back then, you would make your application [40] on the Feast of St. Charles.<sup>16</sup> So did you only take out the 8 *louis d'or*<sup>17</sup> in Strasburg as a precaution so that you could sit around in Manheim? You hope to be taken on<sup>18</sup> in Manheim? Taken on? – – What does that mean? – – You should no longer be taken on either in Manheim or in any other place in this world – I do not want to hear the word taken on again. [45] If the Elector<sup>19</sup> dies today, a battalion of musical artists now in Munich and Manheim will wander out into the wide world and look for bread, since the Duke von Zweybrücken<sup>20</sup> himself has an orchestra of 36 persons, and the current Electoral Music for Bavaria and Manheim costs 80,000 per year.

<sup>21</sup>The worthy Manheimers are clowns if they imagine the Elector will leave Munich; [50] they are deluding themselves with this hope because they wish it to be so. I have better and more reliable information – for political reasons of state it absolutely cannot be: – but what use is all this verbiage? The main thing is that you should now come to Salzb. I do not want to know anything about the 40 *louis d'or*<sup>22</sup> you may perhaps earn. [55] Your entire intentions are moving towards bringing about my ruin purely for the sake of carrying out your castle-in-the-air plans. You had over 15 *louis d'or* in your purse when you left Paris.

that makes – – 165 f

In your own words, calculating cautiously, you had takings of

7 <i>louis d'or</i> <sup>23</sup> in Strasb.:	77 f
[60] from Herr Scherz 8 <i>louis d'or</i>	88 f
	330 f

The coach from Paris was paid for. This is now a fine sum of money for a single person – when one has minimal additional costs with the *diligence*,<sup>24</sup> *à proportion*<sup>25</sup>, needless to say. [65] In short! I have absolutely no wish to die in shame and in debt on your account, and even less to leave your poor sister behind in misery; – You have as little idea as I do of how long God will let you live. When I write to *Md.<sup>me</sup> Canabich*<sup>26</sup> saying that because of your departure I went into debt<sup>27</sup> by – – – – – 300 f  
that I obtained for you in Manheim<sup>28</sup> – – – – – 200  
[70] that in Paris I paid money received from Gschwendner<sup>29</sup> – – – – 110

<sup>16</sup> BD: 4<sup>th</sup> November; cf. No. 0478/259.

<sup>17</sup> BD: = 88 florins.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Mozart's phrase in No. 0504/13.

<sup>19</sup> "Churf.": BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria, succeeding the childless Maximilian III Joseph.

<sup>20</sup> "Herzog von Zweybrücken". BD: Karl II August von Pfalz-Zweibrücken, a relative of Karl Theodor, Elector of Bavaria. Duke [Herzog] of Zweibrücken 1775-1795. He did not succeed Karl Theodor, who died in 1799.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0504/14-16.

<sup>22</sup> BD: = 440 florins.

<sup>23</sup> BD: 3 + 3 + 1 from three concerts, cf. No. 0503/10, 15-16, 53-54.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Large coach used on the regular mail routes and also for passengers.

<sup>25</sup> = "proportionately".

<sup>26</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0057/13. Maria Elisabeth, née la Motte, married in 1759 (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798), who had joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to their daughter Rosa.

<sup>27</sup> BD: From Abbé Bullinger, a friend of the family in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0375/70.

<sup>28</sup> BD: 150 florins via Schmalz (cf. Nos. 0377/11; 0379/22; 0393/34) and 50 florins via Hagenauer, for which Nannerl had offered a promissory note in her favour as security (cf. Nos. 0430/113 ff.; 0435/79 ff.).

that I have to pay *Baron Grimm*<sup>30</sup> – 15 *l d*: ----- 165  
 that you received in Strasb.<sup>31</sup> 8 *louis d*: ----- 88  
 that you have thus, in 14 months, involved me in debts of ----- 863 f

If I say to her that she should give this information to all those who are advising you to stay in Manheim [75] and should tell them that I demand that you serve in Salzburg for a couple of years because that way I have prospects of paying these debts, none of them will hold you back with a single word more, but will pull quite different faces. In short! – Until now my letters were written not only as a father but also a friend; [80] I hope, after receiving this letter, you will immediately speed up your journey and proceed in such a way that I can receive you with joy and do not need to meet you with accusations: yes, I hope that, after your mother had to die *mal à propos*<sup>32</sup> in Paris, you will not additionally burden your conscience by bringing on<sup>33</sup> the death of your father. [85] I have not yet, praise God, lost my reason – my duty is to make the best provision for the temporal and eternal well-being of my children – for this I must answer to God and render the most rigorous account – I must take the greatest pains regarding the honour of myself and my children. The 863 florins<sup>34</sup> have to be paid. I understand more about making plans than you, who believe any piece of flattery. [90] I know that I can pay it off in 2 years. But I cannot pay it alone. And you are not now in a position to think anything through with a cool head; and you worry little about the reputation of your father, who today knows, for the first time in almost 2 months, where he has to write to you. In short! My debts have to be paid, upon receiving this you will leave. [95] I do not want to be the laughing-stock of the town which wishes to see you, and who had the fond idea, since you had not written to me for so long, you would take me by surprise on my name-day.<sup>35</sup> Ah yes, that would have been too much tenderness! What might I have done to deserve that? – – Herr *Fiala*<sup>36</sup> has quit his service in Munich, although he had not lost a single *kreuzer*<sup>37</sup> from his salary, [100] because he foresees the turbulences following the death of the Elector. His baggage is lying here in my dining room. One *violoncello*, 2 *violins*, one *viola*, a box with *music* and a *chest*. This evening he will arrive, along with his wife,<sup>38</sup> in the *diligence*. I hope for a letter shortly from you saying that you have set off. May God grant you a good journey, I kiss you a million times and am [105]

your eagerly waiting father,  
 Mzt

Your sister embraces you – and hopes to embrace you soon. *Sgr. Ceccarelli*<sup>39</sup> commends himself and can hardly wait for the moment when he sees you. If I had time, I could

<sup>29</sup> BD: Karl Gallus Gschwendtner (1751-1818), younger brother of Franz Xaver Gschwendtner (cf. No. 0102/144-145). He dealt in iron in Salzburg, but was often away on business (cf. No. 0467/35-36).

<sup>30</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0487/78. Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He was living with the Marquise d'Épinay just mentioned. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris. After his mother's death, Mozart moved into accommodation in the house shared by Grimm and Madame d'Épinay. Cf. No. 0074/15.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Cf. lines 40, 60.

<sup>32</sup> = "inopportunately".

<sup>33</sup> BD: An accusation as heavy as that contained in No. 0478/79-81.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Cf. line 73.

<sup>35</sup> BD: 15<sup>th</sup> November.

<sup>36</sup> BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

<sup>37</sup> BD: Kreuzer: a small coin, 60 to 1 florin.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0552/3. Josepha, née Prohaska.

<sup>39</sup> BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

describe to you the punishment of a son's disobedience [110] toward his parents and the whole long story. Count Sigerl Lodron<sup>40</sup> has had to be operated on with 3 long incisions in his side all the way through to the ribs, he is lying between life and death; wretchedly painful! The story would take too long. It was an astonishing operation! All the *chirurgi* and *medici*, including *Doctor Quella*<sup>41</sup> from Passau, were called in. [115]

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<sup>40</sup> BD: Sigmund, Count [Graf] Lodron, son of the Hereditary Marshall [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779).

<sup>41</sup> BD: Julius Quella, Imperial and Royal Counsellor [kaiserlicher und kaiserlich-königlicher Rat], actual Court Counsellor [wirklicher Hofrat], personal physician to the Bishop of Passau, Leopold Ernst, Count [Graf] Firmian.