

0549. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la chapelle de /  
S:A:R: l'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg.

Munic ce 1 decembre

Mon très chér Père!<sup>1</sup>

1780.

[5] The rehearsal went extraordinarily well; – there were only 6 violins in all but the required wind instruments – none of the audience were allowed in except Seeau's sister<sup>2</sup> and the young Count Sensheim.<sup>3</sup> – a week today we want to have a second one. There we will have 12 violinists for the first act |: which in the meantime is being copied :| [10] then the 2<sup>nd</sup>, |: as the 1<sup>st</sup> was the previous time :| will be rehearsed as well. – I cannot tell you how full of joy and astonishment everyone was. – But I did not expect anything else, for, I assure you, I went to this rehearsal with such a calm heart, as if I were going to a *collazion*<sup>4</sup> somewhere. – Count Sensheim said to me: – I assure you that I expected a very great deal from you [15] – but this I truly did not expect. – The *Cannabich*<sup>5</sup> household, and all who frequent it, are indeed true friends of mine; – as I went to *Cannabich's* house after the rehearsal with him |: for we still had a great deal to talk about with the Count :|, *Mad:<sup>me</sup> Cannabich* at once came towards me and embraced me, entirely happy that the rehearsal had turned out well. [20] Then Ram<sup>6</sup> and Lang<sup>7</sup> came home as if out of their minds; – the good woman, this true friend of mine – meanwhile had had a thousand worries on my account, since she was alone at home with her sick Rose<sup>8</sup> – Ramm said to me – for once you know him you will say, This is a true German; – he tells you everything straight to your face exactly as he thinks; [25] – This much I can surely confess to you, said he, that never has any music made such an impression on me – and I assure you that I have probably thought about your worthy father 50 times, about the joy that this man must feel when he hears this opera.

Now enough of that; – during the rehearsal my catarrh became somewhat – worse. [30] – one does in fact simply become hot when Honour and Reputation are at stake, no matter how cold-blooded one may be at the beginning. – I have made use of everything that you prescribed for me – it is simply going slowly, but it is now that it has become really inconvenient for me – for writing does not put an end to catarrh – and the writing certainly has to be done. – Today I have begun to take violet syrup and a little almond oil, and now I certainly notice easing. – and I stayed at home for 2 days again.

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<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Munich, this 1st day of December / My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: An unidentified sister of Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0300/11.

<sup>3</sup> “Graf”. BD: Maximilian Joseph Clemens Maria von Seinsheim (1751-1803), son of the Royal High Steward in Munich [Obersthofmeister], Joseph Franz Maria, Count [Graf] Seinsheim.

<sup>4</sup> = “First or second meal of the day”.

<sup>5</sup> BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). 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 his daughter Rosa.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Friedrich Ramm (1744 – after 1808), oboist, joined the court music in Mannheim aged 14, was in Paris with Mozart, went to Munich with the court in 1778. Mozart met him in Mannheim in 1777 and wrote the oboe quartet KV 370 (368b) for him in 1781. Cf. No. 0363/18.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Martin Lang, hunting horn player, met Mozart from Mannheim; later moved to Munich with the Mannheim court, cf. No. 0765/92.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cannabich's daughter, to whom Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b). Cf. note above.

Yesterday morning *M.<sup>sr</sup> Raaff*<sup>9</sup> called on me again to hear the *aria* in the second act. – The man is as much in love with his *aria* as usually only a young fiery man can be with his beauty. For in the evening [40] before he goes to bed, and in the morning when he wakes up, he sings it; he said this |: I knew it from a reliable source :| to Herr von Vierreck, Senior Stablemaster,<sup>10</sup> and to Herr von Castel,<sup>11</sup> and now I have it from him personally; – I was otherwise always used to help myself into the roles, in both the recitatives and the arias – but here everything has been left as it was, I do not know of a single note which is not suitable for me etc. [45] *Enfin*<sup>12</sup> – he is as satisfied as a king. – He would no doubt, like me, wish to have the *aria* that was sent to him changed a little. – The *era* is not right in his eyes either. – and then – we would like to have a peaceful – contented – *aria* here – even if it were only one part – all the better; – one always has to take the second part in the middle, and it often wanders around in my way. [50] In *Achile in Sciro*<sup>13</sup> there is such an *aria* in this manner.

*Or che mio figlio Sei,  
sfido il destin nemico  
sento degl' anni miei  
il Peso à legierir.*<sup>14</sup>

[55] Meanwhile Herr Sieger<sup>15</sup> will have called on you and passed on a letter from me? – I ask you to send the *sordini*<sup>16</sup> for the horns and trumpets soon.

To my sister many thanks from me for the list of the theatre performances – with the play *Revenge for Revenge*<sup>17</sup> it is indeed peculiar. [60] Here it has already been put on several times to great applause. And just recently too – but I have not seen it. –

To Fräulein Therese von *Barisani*<sup>18</sup> I commend myself most devotedly – if I had a brother, I would have asked him to kiss her hands in deepest humility – but since I have a sister it is much better still; [65] I therefore ask her to give her the most friendly of embraces in my name. – To Frau Babette von M<sup>ö</sup>lk<sup>19</sup> please pass on my compliments and, since she is convinced of my many projects at this time, she will surely forgive me for, in keeping with my promise, not yet having written to her. I congratulate her from my heart on her name-day.

[70] Now *adieu*. I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister from my heart and I am, sir, eternally your

*P.S.* please send me the way of  
preparing sago – for a  
[75] good friend.  
1000 Compliment von allen – allen. –  
*Apropos:*<sup>20</sup> why not write to *Cannabich*,

most obedient son  
Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

<sup>9</sup> BD: Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich. Cf. No. 0120/54.

<sup>10</sup> “obriststallmeister”. BD: Mathäus, Baron [Freiherr] von Vieregg, occupied a number of official positions in the Palatinate and then in Munich.

<sup>11</sup>

<sup>12</sup> = “In short”.

<sup>13</sup> BD: *Achille in Sciro*, opera by Caldara celebrating the marriage of Maria Theresia and Franz of Lorraine.

<sup>14</sup> = “Now that you are my son, I defy hostile destiny, feel the weight of my years becoming lighter.”

<sup>15</sup> BD: Lawyer and music-lover in Munich; cf. No. 0553/3 ff.

<sup>16</sup> = “mutes”. BD: Cf. No. 0545/27, where the same request was made.

<sup>17</sup> BD: *Rache für Rache*, comedy in 4 acts by Johann Christian Brandes.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Maria Theresia (1761-1864), second daughter of the court physician Barisani (cf. No. 0270/28-29).

<sup>19</sup> BD: Maria Anna Barbara von M<sup>ö</sup>lk (1752-1823), daughter of Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von M<sup>ö</sup>lk (1714-1776). Cf. No. 0158/5.

<sup>20</sup> Here: = “By the way”.

he deserves it, and it will make him uncommonly glad – what does it matter – should he not answer? – he does not mean it that way that it appears. [80] He does the same with everyone, one must know him.