

0559. 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 13 decembre
1780

Mon très cher Père!¹

[5] I received your last letter with the changes and *scena* for Panzachi² and the suit and trumpet *sordini*³ in the most perfect order. – I now hope to receive the aria for Raaf[f]⁴ soon. – Herr Esser⁵ has not yet called on me – it will not be so easy for him to find out where my lodgings are; – he spoke with *Cannabich*⁶ in the theatre. – The last two letters from you were much too short for my taste [10] – I therefore hunted through all the pockets in the black suit to see if anything more might have been left there. – In Vienna and all Imperial Hereditary Lands, then, theatre begins again within 6 weeks. – That is moreover eminently reasonable thinking – for mourning too long brings far less benefit to the dead gentleman or lady than it brings harm to so many people. [15] – will Herr Schickaneder⁷ stay in Salzburg? – in this way he could get to see and hear my *opera* after all. – Here no one can understand |: and indeed rightly so :| that the mourning is lasting 3 months – and in the case of the Elector of blessed memory⁸ it lasted only 6 weeks.

But the spoken theatre is continuing as usual. –

[20] You do not tell me in your letter how Herr Esser accompanied my *sonatas*?⁹ – – badly? – well?

The play How one thinks the thing is or The two sleepless nights,¹⁰ is charming, for here I have – – –

No, no, not seen it, only read it; for they have not performed it yet, [25] and furthermore I have only been in the theatre one single time – because I do not have time – for the evening is indeed always my favourite time for work. –

If Her Grace the most reasonable, gracious Frau von *Robinig*¹¹ does not condescend this time to postpone a little her gracious journey to Munich, [30] Her Grace will not be able

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Munich, this 13th day of December, 1780 / My very dear father!”

² BD: Domenico de’ Panzacchi (1733-1805), sang in Munich between 1762 and 1779. Sang *Arbace* in *Idomeneo*.

³ = “mutes”, often mentioned in recent letters.

⁴ 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.

⁵ BD: Karl Michael Esser (* c. 1735, untraceable after 1791). He is not mentioned in the travel notes for Mainz. His astounding feats on the violin are mentioned in No. 0556/21 ff.

⁶ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi 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.

⁷ BD: Wolfgang expects that Schikaneder will come to Munich to see the opera if he continues to be based in Salzburg. – Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812), actor and theatre director. He took over the Moser troupe in 1778, which he took to Ulm, Stuttgart, Augsburg, Neuburg an der Donau, Nuremberg, Erlangen, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Laibach, Klagenfurt and Linz 1780. They were in Salzburg 1780/81. He soon got to know the Mozart family, gave them free entry to the theatre every evening, and participated in the air-rifle club. He was important in giving Mozart familiarity with stage practice. In 1786 they performed operas ten times and plays three times in Salzburg.

⁸ BD: Elector [Kurfürst] Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777) was also an outstanding viola da gamba player as well as a composer. Cf. No. 0337/90. On the death of Elector [Kurfürst] Maximilian III of Bavaria cf. No. 0399/53 ff.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0556/30-31.

¹⁰ “Wie man sich die Sache denkt, oder die zwey schlaflosen Nächte”. BD: For this Mozart composed the *Scena* KV 11a (lost).

to hear anything of my *opera*¹² – but I am of the opinion that Her Grace will graciously condescend, as a favour to Her Grace’s Esteemed Son,¹³ to prolong her sojourn in that place – Now you will course already have begun with the portrait? – And all too certainly my sister as well! – [35] how is it turning out? –

Have you had no answer from Wezlar,¹⁴ from our – authorised representative there – I can’t remember his name anymore – Fox, I believe – concerning the duets for two *claviers*, I mean. – There is nothing finer than when one states one’s position clearly – and – the *arias* from *Aesop’s*¹⁵ hand are still lying in readiness on the table? – please send me the same with the post-coach – [40] then I will give them to Herr von Thicket,¹⁶ who then sends it on to him postage paid. – to whom? – Well, to Heckmann!¹⁷ – he is a very well-bred man, isn’t he? – and a passionate lover of music. – Herr Sieger.¹⁸ – Today the main thing always comes for me at the last moment – and I am not doing it any differently myself; the other day, after the meal, I drove with *Le Grand*¹⁹ from Lisel Wendling’s²⁰ to Cannabich’s [45] |: because it was so grey with snow :| and there they saw you in him as they looked through the window – really believed I was coming with you – I did not know what it all meant as I saw Karl²¹ and the children already coming towards us on the stairs – and when they saw *Le Grand* they did not speak another word – and their faces dropped – until they explained it to us when we got upstairs [50]. – Now I do not wish to write anything more, because you wrote a little to me – nothing other than that *M.^{sr} Eck*,²² who is just creeping in at the door in order to collect his sword, which he forgot the last time, commends himself to Thresel, Pimperl, Miss Mitzerl, Katherl Gylofsky,²³ my sister and finally to you as well.

[55] Last night his esteemed son vomited, urinated and shit his bed full – *Non plus ultra*.²⁴

Please pass on my compliments everywhere – just as I have to do to you from everywhere here.

Now I must end, otherwise I must ride after the post coach with the letter in my hand. [60] *Adieu*. I kiss your hands 1000 times, and kiss my sister with my whole heart – and am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son

Wolfg. Mozart

Please kiss Thresel²⁵ – [65] and if this is impossible for you – the Huatara²⁶ chap – should carry it out. – To Pimperl²⁷ 1000 little kisses. *Adieu*.

¹¹ BD: Maria Viktoria Robinig von Rottenfeld, née Aniser (cf. No. 0016/67), wife of a Salzburg factory owner. It was her custom to call Leopold the “most reasonable esteemed music director”.

¹² BD: *Idomeneo* was being prepared in Munich.

¹³ BD: Georg Sigismund/Siegmund Robinig von Rottenfeld (1760-1823). Played second violin in Czernin’s amateur orchestra, cf. No. 0446/37.

¹⁴ BD: The “Agent by High-Princely Decree” at the court in Wetzlar had the name Haas (“hare”); Mozart then used the old saying “a fox is no hare” to arrive at the name “Fuchs” [“fox”].

¹⁵ BD: Probably a copyist.

¹⁶ BD: “Dumhoff”, presumably a nickname, sounding very close to “Dummkopf” [“Thickhead”].

¹⁷ BD: Presumably to the “*Registreur de la chambre des finances*” mentioned in No. 0504/97, although he must have moved to Munich by this time.

¹⁸ BD: Entrusted with a letter to Leopold, cf. No. 0549/55.

¹⁹ BD: Ballet master for the opera, cf. No. 0547/5.

²⁰ BD: Elisabeth Augusta Wendling (I) [“Lisl”], wife of violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786). Cf. Nos. 0057/2-6; 0555/64; 0824/28.

²¹ BD: Son of Christian Cannabich; violinist.

²² BD: Johann Friedrich Eck (1766-c.1810), violinist, son of the Mannheim horn player Georg Eck. Cf. No. 0887/91-92.

²³ BD: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household; Pimpes, the Mozarts’ dog in Salzburg; [Jungfer = Miss] Maria Anna Raab, the Mozarts’ landlady; Nannerl’s friend Maria Anna Katharina Gilowsky.

²⁴ = “Nothing surpasses that”.

²⁵ BD: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household.

²⁶ BD: Perhaps the violinist Paul Hutterer [the spelling here suggests pronunciations in the local dialect].

²⁷ BD: The Mozarts' dog in Salzburg.