

0582.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SOHN,² LEIPZIG

Herrn Breitkopf and Son / famous book dealers / in /
Leipzig

Munich, 12th Feb., 1781.

Most Noble, especially Highly Honoured Sir!

[5] I have the honour of writing to you from Munich, where I have been for a fortnight because of the *opera*³ which my son wrote for the Electoral Theatre. I too, of course, wanted to hear and see it! – – – On the first of March I will be in Salzburg again, where I expect news via Herr Schwarzkopf⁴ at market-time, if you should please to order anything.

[10] For a long time now my wish has been that you might print something by my son. You will naturally not judge him by his keyboard *sonatas*, which he wrote as a child? – – you will of course not have seen a single note of what he has written in recent years, unless it could be the 6 *sonatas* for keyboard and one violin which he had engraved in Paris [15] with a dedicatory inscription to the present Electress of Bavaria-Palatinate,⁵ for we had only a very few published. You could do a trial with a couple of *symphonies*, – or keyboard *sonatas* – or with *quartets*, *trios* etc. – In return you should simply give us some copies, simply so that you see something of the compositional style of my son. Yet I do not in any way have in mind to talk you into anything; [20] this thought recurred frequently to me because I see many things in engravings and print which move me to pity. My son commends itself and I remain, with especial respect,

Your Most Noble Sir's Most Devoted Servant,
Leopold Mozart mpa⁶

DRAFT ANSWER FROM THE PUBLISHER:⁷

I hope that he will have received from Herr Stein in Nuremberg the payment for the last consignment of 30 copies of his violin school after counting the 2 volumes sent a year ago.

1st part:

I have asked Herr Stein to bring with him for me a new shipment of violin schools from him, which I ask him to give him on my account. – In one of his letters he mentions a remainder, relating to the instrument maker *Grensier*,⁸ which is apparently in my hands. Since I cannot recall anything about it, I would ask him to inform me of it in detail.

¹ BD VIII, p. 51 has the text of the original in the Universitätsbibliothek Bonn.

² BD: Later "Breitkopf & Härtel". Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800.

³ *Idomeneo*.

⁴ BD: The Nuremberg representative of the publisher Breitkopf (cf. No. 0163/31), a regular visitor to the twice yearly fairs in Salzburg.

⁵ "Churfürstin von Pfalzbayern". BD: The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) dedicated to the Palatine Electress, Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Published in Paris by J.G. Sieber. In the meantime, the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate had become reunited for the first time since the Treaty of Pavia in 1329.

⁶ mpa = manu propria = in his own hand.

⁷ BD: Following the direction *Verte* at the bottom of the first sheet, this draft was included on a second sheet. Leopold's answer is presumably No. 0617.

⁸ BD: Grenser: one of the most famous instrument makers in Europe. The founder, Karl Augustin Grenser (I), 1820-1708, was a good wind player himself, came to Dresden in 1739 and set up a workshop in 1744. His flutes were particularly praised for excellent craftsmanship, pure intonation and beautiful sound.

If he wishes to see something by his son appearing in my publishing house, it would have to be, in due time, keyboard *sonatas*, but ones which no-one else should have, especially music dealers or engravers. *Symphonies*, *quartets* are good for engraving but not for typeset printing. He can also include, alongside the violin schools requested, some copies of the keyboard *trios* composed by his son in Paris and dedicated to the Electress of the Bavarian Palatinate. Ask how they are engraved.