

*Vienne ce 4 d'avril*  
1781.

*Mon très cher Père!*<sup>2</sup>

This time I must write to you with great brevity, but on Sunday *Brunetti*<sup>3</sup> is going back, and then I will certainly be able to write to you at greater length. – [5] you would like to know what is happening with us in Vienna – but hopefully really – with me – for I do not count the two others as part of me. –

I have already written to you recently saying that <the Archbishop<sup>4</sup>> is a great hindrance to me here, for he has caused me losses of at least 100 ducats<sup>5</sup> which I could quite certainly have made from a <concert> in the <theatre> – [10] for the ladies had already spontaneously offered to distribute *tickets*. – I can certainly say that I was extremely satisfied with the Viennese public yesterday. – I played in the widows' *concert*<sup>6</sup> in the Kärtner Thor Theatre. – I had to start from the beginning again because there was no end to the applause. – What do you think I might earn if I give a *concert* for myself now that the public knows me? [15] – only our arch-boor does not allow it – does not want his people to make a *profit*, but a loss – but he cannot achieve this goal with me, for if I have 2 pupils here, I am in a better position than in Salzburg – I do not need his board and *lodging* – now hear this: – [20] while we were eating today, *Brunetti* said that *Arco*<sup>7</sup> told him on behalf of the Archbishop that he should tell us that we will get the money for the *diligence*<sup>8</sup> and should leave by Sunday; – otherwise, anyone wishing to stay, Oh Reason! can stay, but must live from his own resources, he will not receive any more meals and accommodation from him. – *Brunetti, qui ne demande pas mieux*,<sup>9</sup> [25] licked all his fingers in expectation; *Ceccarelli*, who would like to be here, but is not so well known here and does not know the customs as I do, will try to charm his way into something; if not, then he will go, in God's name, for he has no accommodation and nowhere to eat in the whole of Vienna where he does not have to pay. – When I was asked what I was resolved to do – I answered: – [30] so far I am not aware that I should go – for, until Count Arco himself tells me, I will not believe it – and then I shall certainly tell him what I think. – Swallow that! *Benecke*<sup>10</sup> was present and grinned; – Oh, I would certainly like to <thumb my nose at the Archbishop> so that it is <a real joy> – and with the greatest <*politesse*;<sup>12</sup> for he cannot avoid me>; – enough, in the next letter I will be able to tell you more of this. [35] – rest assured that if I do not have a thoroughly firm footing and do not see my advantage absolutely clearly – I shall certainly not stay here. – But if I can

<sup>1</sup> Contains passages in "family code": these are marked in angle brackets <>.

<sup>2</sup> = "Vienna, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1781 / My very dear father!"

<sup>3</sup> BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261. Cf. No. 0346/10.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

<sup>5</sup> BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0585/73, 76. "Tonkünstler-Societät": Society for the widows and orphans of musicians, founded in 1771 in a form copied from London. Mozart took part in the annual concerts at least three times as a pianist; the works KV 469 and KV 581 (*Davidde Penitente* and the clarinet quintet) were also certainly performed there.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Karl Joseph Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1743-1830), son of Count [Graf] Georg Anton Felix Arco, held various offices in Salzburg, including High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister]. Played a role in the dismissal of Mozart described in No. 0604/4 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Large coach often used as a post-coach.

<sup>9</sup> = "who asks for nothing more".

<sup>10</sup> Bönike, the theologian, consistorial secretary and councillor mentioned in

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0585/23. Dr. Theol. Johann Michael Bönike, consistorial secretary and notary.

<sup>12</sup> = "politeness".

have that, why should I not profit from it? – you will <in the meantime draw> 2 <salaries> and have <me off your bread-list>. – If I stay here, I assure you that I will soon <be able> to send money <back home> to you. – I speak in all earnestness, and if not, I will come back – Now *adieu* – the next time more and in detail. I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister from my heart, and hope she will surely have replied to Mad.<sup>selle</sup> Hepp.<sup>13</sup> – *Adieu*. Eternally, sir, your

[45]

most obedient son,  
Wolfg Amadè Mozart

My compliments to  
all – all –  
all –

*P. S.* I assure you that it is a splendid place here – and, for my profession [50] the best place in the world. – Everyone will tell you that. – and I enjoy being here, and therefore I am doing everything in my power to profit from it. Rest assured that my only aim is to earn as much money as possible, for that is, next to one's health, the best of things. –

Do not think about my follies anymore, I have long since regretted them with my whole heart [55] – losses sharpen the wits – and now I have all kinds of other ideas. *Adieu* – the next time more and in detail. *Adieu.*

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<sup>13</sup> BD: As Mozart mentions in No. 0333/60, the Hepp family was among the most respected patrician families in Munich. She was the sister of the merchant Philipp Hepp (1753-1798). She later married a secretary by the name of Starzer, cf. No. 0765/67.