

Vienne ce 24 Nov.^{bre}
1781

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

Yesterday I was at the *concert* at Auernhammer's² just when *Ceccarelli*³ brought me the letter, so he had not found me at home and had therefore left the letter with the Webers, [5] who at once sent him to me. – at the *concert* were Countess Thun⁴ |: whom I had invited :| *Baron van Suiten*,⁵ *Baron Godenus*, the rich baptised Jew Wetzler,⁶ Count *Firmian*,⁷ and Herr *von Daubrawaick*⁸ and his son. – we played the *Concert à Due*⁹ and a *sonata* for two which I *composed expressly* for this,¹⁰ and which had complete *succès*; I will send you this *sonata* via Herr *von Dauvrawaick*, who said he will be proud to have it occupying a place in his chest; the son said this, and, *nota bene*, a Salzburgian. But the father, as he was leaving, said to me loudly: – I am proud to be your fellow countryman – you are bringing great honour to Salzburg – I hope the times will at last change again so that we can have you. – and then we will certainly not leave you out. – To which I said: – My Fatherland always has the first claim on me. –

I have seen Herr Geschwendtner once at the theatre and once at the *redoute*; as soon as I see him again I will ask him when he is leaving. – [20] The King of the Moors, Kerschbaumer¹¹ is here as well. – And just when I was at *Mad.^{me} Contarini's*¹² |: who lives in the same house, and also on the 3rd floor, as myself :| to borrow a *Domino*,¹³ the gentlemen Freysauf and Atzwanger¹⁴ came in. Blessed Salzburgians without end.

¹ = “Vienna, this 24th day of November, 1781 / My very dear father!”

² BD: Johann Michael von Auernhammer (†1782); his daughter Josepha (1758-1820) was a pupil of Mozart's with professional aspirations. Cf. No. 0585/132. Mozart dedicated to her the six violin sonatas KV 296, 376 (374d), 377 (374e), 378 (317d), 379 (373a), 380 (374f), published as Opus II.

³ 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.

⁴ “Gräfin”. BD: Mozart's patroness, Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800), wife of Johann Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason, husband of. Mozart described him as “strange”, probably because of his inclination to the mystical and magical, as in his admiration for Franz Anton Mesmer.

⁵ BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had educational responsibilities in Vienna. Owner of a valuable library. Wrote the texts for Haydn's “Seven Last Words” and “The Seasons”. Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from him.

⁶ BD: Karl Abraham Wetzlar von Plankenstein (1716-1799), converted from Judaism in 1777, received title “Freiherr” (approx. “Baron”). BD VI, p. 699: His son Raimund (1752-1810) gave Mozart free accommodation Dec. 1782 – Feb. 1783, paid his removal costs and rent for next accommodation. Godfather of Mozart's first son, Raimund Leopold. It was in his house that Mozart first met Da Ponte. He and his siblings subscribed to Mozart's concerts.

⁷ “graf”. BD: Not clear which member of the family is meant: perhaps Imperial Court Counsellor [Reichshofrat] Ernst Firmian .

⁸ BD: Johann Baptist Anton Daubrawa von Daubrawaick (1731-1810), court councillor, legal officer to the Cathedral chapter, helped the Mozarts as a “messenger” between Salzburg in Vienna more than once.

⁹ BD: The concerto for two keyboards in E^b KV 365 (316a).

¹⁰ BD: Probably the sonata for two keyboards in D KV 448 (375a).

¹¹ BD: Probably a son of the Salzburg merchant Kerschbaumer. Nickname not explained.

¹² BD: Not identified.

¹³ BD: Domino: a Carnival costume with a mask, presumably borrowed for the ball which he did not however attend.

¹⁴ BD: One of the brothers Anton and Franz Freysauf, merchants in Salzburg. Raimund Felix Atzwanger, Salzburg city councillor, tax collector general, representative in the parliament of the states.

Now the big animal, the Grand Prince,¹⁵ is here. – Tomorrow is *Alceste*¹⁶ |: Italian :| [25] in Schönbrun. And then a open ball there.¹⁷ – I have looked round for *favourite* Russian songs so as to be able to play *variations* on them.

Now my *sonatas*, which I will send to you at the next opportunity, have been published.

Ceccarelli will undoubtedly want to give a *concert* with me, but nothing will come of it, for I am no lover of sharing. – All that I can do |: since I will give a *concert* during Lent :| is to let him sing in it, and then – play in his concerts free of charge! –

Now I must close, for must go to Frau von Trattner's;¹⁸ [35] to my dear sister, whom I kiss from my heart, I shall reply in the coming days. To you, my dearest, best of fathers, I send 100 000 hand-kisses and am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son,

W: A: Mozart

¹⁵ “grosfürst”. BD: Grand Prince Paul Petrovich of Russia, mentioned in letters since No. 0614/34.

¹⁶ BD: Gluck's opera *Alceste*.

¹⁷ BD: A ball open to all, as opposed to a ball for invited guests only.

¹⁸ BD: Maria Theresia von Trattner, née Nagel (1758-1793), married to the successful book seller und printer Johann Thomas Trattner; a pupil of Mozart's.