

0661. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

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

Vienna ce 30 de Janvier  
1782.

Mon très cher Père!<sup>1</sup> –

[5] I am writing to you in the utmost haste, and at half past 10 in the evening, no less; for I wanted to save the writing until Saturday, but because I have to ask you something very urgently, I hope you will not be annoyed with me for writing so little – I must ask you to send me |: with the next letter |: a text booklet<sup>2</sup> for the *opera Idomenée* |: whether it be the one with the [10] German or without the translation :|. –

I lent one to Countess Thun<sup>3</sup> – she has now moved house and cannot find it – it has probably been lost. – the Auerhammer girl<sup>4</sup> had the other one – she has searched, but not yet found it. – Perhaps she will find it – but – she has not found it – particularly now, when I need it, I am thus forced [15] – to play it safe, so I ask you, sir, to send it to me at once, whatever it may cost – for I need it at once to put everything in place for my *concert*. – and it will already take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent. – I therefore ask you to send it to me at once. –

I will put the sonatas<sup>5</sup> on the next post-coach.

[20] The opera<sup>6</sup> is not asleep, but – has been kept back because of the big *operas* by Gluck<sup>7</sup> and because of many very necessary changes in the poetry; but will be given straight after Easter.<sup>8</sup> –

Now I have to close – only one more thing |: for without this I will not be able to sleep peacefully :| – do not suspect my dear Konstanze of such bad thoughts [25] – believe firmly that I could not possibly love her if she had such attitudes. – She and I – we both noticed her mother's intentions<sup>9</sup> a long time ago – but she will certainly be very mistaken – for – she wishes us |: once we are married :| to live in her house |: for she has *rooms* free :| – [30] but nothing will come of this. – For I would never do this, and my Konstanze even less so. – *O contraire*<sup>10</sup> – her inclination is to be seen very seldom at her mother's, and I will do my best to make sure that it does not happen at all – we know her. – Dearest, best of fathers; – I wish nothing more than that we should meet soon so that you see her and – love her – for – [35] you love good hearts, that I know; – Now, I wish you well in every way, dearest, best of fathers! – I kiss your hands 1000 times and am, sir, eternally your

<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1782. / My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: Mozart was preparing a concert for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1782 (cf. lines 17-18) in which parts of *Idomeneo* were to be performed. The text had been published in Munich in two forms, one purely Italian, one in Italian with German prose translation by Johann Andreas Schachtner.

<sup>3</sup> “gräfin thun”. BD: Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800), Vienna, appears frequently in the letters as a patroness of Mozart, although only until 1782. Wife of Johann Joseph Anton, Graf Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason. It was there that Mozart lodged with his wife returning from Salzburg in 1783 and wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425. She was also acquainted with Baron van Swieten. Cf. Nos. 0585/57, 85; 0766/16; 0863/8.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Josepha (1758-1820), daughter of Johann Michael von Auerhammer (†1782); a pupil of Mozart's with professional aspirations. Cf. No. 0585/132.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Probably the six clavier/violin sonatas published by Artaria & Co. in 1781: KV 296, 376 (374d), 377 (374e), 378 (317d), 379 (373a), 380 (374f). Mozart had already sent one copy of Salzburg on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1781 (cf. No. 0629/73).

<sup>6</sup> BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio* KV 384.

<sup>7</sup> BD: *Iphigenie auf Tauris* (Gluck/Alxinger), *Alceste*, *Orfeo*.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The première did not take place until 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1782.

<sup>9</sup> BD: It was surely with the help of Leopold's comments that Mozart recognised Cäcilia Weber's selfish intentions.

<sup>10</sup> [au contraire] = “On the contrary”.

most obedient son,

W: A: Mozart

I embrace my dear sister [40] with all my heart. – nor will I forget the *variations*.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0648/98: Probably KV 352 (374c), 359 (374a), 360 (374b); cf. Nos. 0610/31-32; 0649/7-8. These variations were not published (by Artaria & Co.) until 1786, along with KV 264 (315d), 353 (300f), 398 (416a), and 455.