

0670.¹ MOZART TO CONSTANZE WEBER, VIENNA

*A / Mademoiselle / Mademoiselle Marie Constance / de Weber, / à /
Son logis²*

Dearest, best of friends! –

[Vienna,] 29th April, 1782

Surely you will at least still allow me to address you this way? [5] – You will hopefully not hate me so much that I can no longer be your friend and you, madam – will no longer be mine? – and – even if you no longer wish to be, you surely cannot forbid me to have well-meaning thoughts towards you, my friend, as has been my custom. – Think carefully over what you said to me today. – [10] 3 times |: despite all my pleas |: you rebuffed me, and told me straight to my face that you wished to have nothing more to do with me. – I, who am not as indifferent as you when it comes to losing an object of my love, am not so hot-blooded, rash and devoid of sense as to – accept the rebuff. – For such a step – I love you too much. – [15] I therefore ask you once again to think carefully about the reason for all this vexation, which was that I was somewhat perturbed that they, your sisters, were so shamelessly rash as to say – *nota bene* in my presence, that you had let a *chapeaux*³ measure your calves.⁴ – No woman who values her honour does that. [20] – the *maxime* that one goes along with the company is sound enough. – but at the same time one must bear many secondary things in mind. – whether they are all good friends and acquaintances? – whether I am a child or a marriageable girl – but in particular whether I am a promised bride? – but above all whether all present are my equals, or inferior to myself – [25] but especially superior to myself? – If the *Baronnin*⁵ herself let this be done to her, that is something quite different, because she is already a woman past her best |: cannot possibly be attractive anymore |: – and is in general a lover of *etcetera*. – I hope, dearest friend, that you would never want to lead a life like hers, [30] even if you do not wish to be my wife. – If you were not at all able to resist the impulse to take part |: although taking part is not always seemly for a male person, let alone a woman – |: you could at least, in God's name, have taken the tape and measured your calves yourself |: as otherwise all women of honour have done in my presence in such cases |: [35] and not leave it to a *chapeau* |: – I – I – would never have done it to you in the presence of others – I would have passed you the tape myself – all the less, then, with a stranger – who has nothing to do with me. – Yet it is over now. – and a brief admission of your somewhat rash behaviour on that occasion would have made up for it all. [40] And – if you do not take it amiss, dearest friend – would still make up for it. – From that you see how much I love you. – – I do not rush into something as you do; – I think – I reflect – and I feel. – You must feel too – allow yourself to have feelings – then I know for certain that even today I will yet be able to say, Konstanze is the virtuous, honour-loving – [45] sensible and faithful beloved of the person of integrity who desires the best for you, your

Mozart mp⁶

¹ BD: Original privately owned? *Olim* owned by Dr. Max Jähns. Mitt. d. MGdeBln 6. Heft 1898.

² = “To Mademoiselle Marie Constance de Weber, at her lodgings”.

³ BD: Chapeau: literally “hat”, here a “beau, gentleman”.

⁴ BD: As part of a game of forfeits.

⁵ BD: Baroness [Baronin] Martha Elisabeth von Waldstätten, at that point 38 years old.

⁶ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.