

Vienne ce 27 Juillet
1782

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

You will open your eyes wide in surprise to see only the first *Allegro*;² but – nothing more was possible – I had to compose a night music³ quickly, [5] but only for *harmonie*,⁴ |: otherwise I would have been able to use it for you as well :| – on Wednesday the 31st I will send you the 2 *Menuetts*, the *Andante* and the final piece;⁵ – If I can – I will also send a *Marche*⁶ – if not, you will simply have to take the one from the *Hafner musique*⁷ |: which is very little known :| –



I have written it *in D* because you prefer it. – [10] My *opera* was performed yesterday for the third time, in honour of all Nannerls⁸ and to *applauso* on every side. – and despite the terrible heat, the theatre was again full to bursting point. – On the coming Friday⁹ another performance is due – but I have *protested* against that – for I do not want it flogged to death. – The people, I can tell you, are completely infatuated with this opera. – It truly does one good when one receives such acclamation.[15] – I hope you will have received the *original*¹⁰ of it safely. Dearest, best of fathers! – I must beg you, beg you for the sake of everything in the world: give me your consent¹¹ so that I can marry my dear Konstanze. – Do not think that this is purely for the sake of marrying – for that I would willingly continue to wait. – [20] but I see that it is an absolute necessity for the sake of my honour, the honour of my girl, for my health and for my state of mind. – My heart is restless, my head confused – how can one think and work sensibly in that state? – what is the origin of this? – most people think we are already married – the mother becomes infuriated about it – and the poor girl, along with myself, [25] is being tormented to death. – This can be remedied so easily. – Believe me that one can live as easily in expensive Vienna as anywhere else, it depends only on housekeeping and order. – This is never found in a young person, especially one who is in love. – Whoever gets such a wife as I am getting can certainly be happy. – We will live very quietly and peacefully [30] – and yet be satisfied. – and do not worry – for if, God forbid, I should fall ill today |: especially as a married man :|, I would wager that the leading *noblemen* would grant me great protection. I can say that with confidence. – I know what Prince Kaunitz¹² said about me to the Emperor¹³ and to Archduke Maximilian.¹⁴ – I am waiting with longing for your consent, my

¹ = “Vienna, this 27th day of July, 1782. / My very dear father!”.

² BD: Symphony KV 385; cf. No. 0677/35.

³ BD: Serenade KV 388 (384a) for the house musicians of Prince [Fürst] Alois Joseph Liechtenstein.

⁴ An instrumental ensemble consisting exclusively of wind instruments suitable for playing outside.

⁵ BD: KV 385, in conventional style calling for a march as opening movement.

⁶ BD: March in D KV 408 (385a), delivered by Mozart on 7 August, 1782, thus too late for the festivities on the 29th July.

⁷ BD: KV 249 (Marche); KV 250 (Haffner Serenade).

⁸ BD: Name-day: 26th July (Anna).

⁹ BD: 2nd August; the first four performances were 27th and 30th July and 2nd and 3rd August.

¹⁰ BD: Mozart had sent it to Salzburg on 20th July.

¹¹ BD: The situation was becoming so unbearable (cf. No. 0683) that Mozart now pressed his father to give approval. His written approval did not arrive until after the wedding.

¹² “fürst”. BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, from 1753 Austrian State Chancellor [Staatskanzler]. Cf. No. 0034/89.

¹³ “kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

own, best of fathers [35] – I am waiting with confidence – my honour and my peace depend on it. – Do not obstruct for too long the pleasure of embracing soon your son, together with his wife. I kiss your hands 1000 times and am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son,

W. A. Mozart

[40] *P.S.* I embrace my dear sister from my heart.

My Konstanze commends herself to both of you. – *Adieu.*

¹⁴ “Erzh.”. BD: Archduke [Erzherzog] Maximilian Franz (cf. Nos. 0034/51; 0641/30; 0660/38), youngest son of Maria Theresia.