

0702.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*Mon Très cher Père!*²

Vienna, 12th October, 1782

³If I had been able to foresee that the *copyists* in Salzburg have so much to do, I would have decided to have the *opera copied* here. – Now I have no choice but to go to the esteemed ambassador⁴ and disclose the true reason to him; [5] – yet I ask you to do everything possible so that I receive it soon. The sooner, the better. You think I would not get it from any *copyist* in Vienna in such a short time; and in fact I wanted to get it from the theatre *copyist* within a week or 10 days at the most. – *Gatti*,⁵ the ass, has asked the Archbishop for permission to write a *serenade*⁶ – [10] this certainly makes him worthy of being allowed to bear the name; and makes me suspect that it could also be applied to his learning in music. –

You write that 400 florins per year assured income is not to be sniffed at;⁷ – if I can work my way up at the same time and consequently consider these 400 florins as additional help, that is certainly true; but that is not the situation here. [15] Here my best income is – 400 florins: – everything else that I could earn must be seen as an additional help, and indeed as a very uncertain one – and therefore a very small additional help. Because, as you can easily imagine, one cannot deal with a pupil who is a Princess as with some other lady: – when it is simply not convenient for such a Princess – [20] one has the honour of waiting. – She is *lodging* at the *Salesians* auf der Wieden.⁸ – if one does not wish to go on foot, one does at least have the honour of paying a 20 kreuzer⁹ coin there and back. Then there are still 304 florins left to me from my salary. N.B. if I give *lessons* only 3 times a week. – So I have to wait – in the meantime I thus miss other *pupils* or other business [25] |: with which I can easily earn more than 400 florins. :|. If I want to come back into town – I must then spend double the money on travel because I have to go back out again. – If I stay out there – and if it is in the morning, as one need not doubt, the afternoon then comes – then I can also have the honour of eating badly and expensively in an inn. – By missing other *lessons* I can [30] – even lose them – since each considers his money to be as good as the Princess does hers. – and in the process I also lose the time and the state of mind to earn all the more with *composition*. – Serving a great lord |: whatever kind of post it might be :| entails payment – with which one is in a position to serve one's lord alone – and one does not need to insure oneself against times of need by earning on the side; [35] – it is certainly necessary to make provision for times of need; – On no account should you believe that I will be so stupid as to tell anyone what I am writing to you here; – but you can also confidently believe that the <Emperor¹⁰> feels his sordidness himself – and bypassed me only for this reason; – if I had applied – – it would certainly have been mine, but not for 400 florins – [40] but also not for as much as would have been fair. – But I am not looking for *pupils* – I can get enough of them; – and two of them – without causing me the least inconvenience or hindrance, give me as much as – the Princess gives her a master, who then has no prospects in this situation, other than that he will

¹ This letter contains a passage in "family code", marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "My very dear father".

³ BD: Obviously replying to points in No. 0701 (lost).

⁴ BD: The Prussian ambassador, who wanted a copy of the *Abduction* for Berlin; cf. Nos. 0695/23 ff.; 0700/9 ff.

⁵ BD: Luigi Gatti was negotiating for a post in Salzburg, which he finally obtained in 1783.

⁶ BD: *L'Isola disabitata*, first performed in Salzburg, 19th January, 1783.

⁷ BD: Mozart had hoped to become keyboard teacher to Princess Elisabeth von Württemberg, who married the Emperor's nephew Franz. Cf. No. 0698/16-18. Leopold had obviously criticised Mozart's dismissal of the appointed teacher on the basis of the salary. Cf. No. 0700/35-37.

⁸ BD: Auf der Wieden: 4th district of Vienna. Salesians: cf. No. 0646/51.

⁹ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

¹⁰ "kaiser". BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

not starve as long as he lives; you are well aware how service to great lords is commonly rewarded. – [45] Now I must close, for the post is leaving.

We kiss your hands 1000 times, and we embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

[50] More soon.

most obedient children,
*W: Et C: Mozart mp*¹¹

¹¹ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.