

*Vienne ce 19 d'octobre*  
1782

*Mon très cher Père!*<sup>1</sup>

Yet again, I must write to you in haste. I do not understand it, otherwise on Fridays I have always safely received a letter from you in the afternoon; – [5] now I can send people however I wish, yet I do not get it until Saturday evening; – concerning my *opera*,<sup>2</sup> I regret that you have had so much trouble with it. – Yes, I have certainly, and indeed to my great joy |: for you are well aware that I am an Arch-Englishman<sup>3</sup> :|, heard about England's victories!<sup>4</sup> –

Today the Russian court<sup>5</sup> left again. The other day my *opera* was performed for him,<sup>6</sup> [10] in which I found it right take my place at the *keyboard* again and *conduct*, partly to re-awaken an *orchestra* somewhat sunk in slumber, partly to show myself |: because I happen to be here :| to the ladies and gentlemen present as the father of my child. –

My dearest father; – I must confess to you that I can hardly wait to see you again [15] and to kiss your hands; – and this was also the motivation for wanting to be in Salzburg by 15<sup>th</sup> *November*, your name-day; only – the best time here is beginning now. – People are coming back from the country, and taking *lessons*. – The *concerts*, too, are beginning; – by the first days *decembris*,<sup>7</sup> then, I would have to be in Vienna again. [20] How hard it would be for my wife and me to leave again so soon; – we would of course prefer to enjoy the presence of our dear father and our dear sister for longer! – Now it depends on you, whether you would like to have us for a long or short time? – We were thinking of spending spring with you. I cannot even speak the name of Salzburg to my dear wife, otherwise she is at once completely beside herself for joy! [25] – the Barber of Salzburg<sup>8</sup> |: and not of *Seville* :| called on me and passed on the finest compliments from you, from my sister and from Katherl;<sup>9</sup> – Now I wish you well in every way; – we both kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children,

*M: C: et W: A: Mozart mp*<sup>10</sup>

[30]

<sup>1</sup> = “Vienna, this 19th day of October, 1782. / My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, cf. Nos. 0695/23 ff.; 0700/9 ff.; 0702/2 ff.

<sup>3</sup> BD: This self-characterisation is presumably based more on feelings than political convictions; the disappointing experiences in Paris in 1778 may also play a role here.

<sup>4</sup> BD: The relief of Gibraltar by Lord Richard Howe and the annihilation of the French fleet by Sir Edward Hughes.

<sup>5</sup> BD: The Grand Prince and entourage, cf. No. 0689/8.

<sup>6</sup> BD: *The Abduction*, on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1783.

<sup>7</sup> = “of December”.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Referring to Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky von Urazowa, ante-chamber servant and court surgeon. A German version of Beaumarchais' *Barber of Seville* was been performed in Vienna as early as 1775.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Katharina Gilowsky, daughter of Wenzel Andreas, member of the marksmen's club, friend of the family.

<sup>10</sup> mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.