

0713. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold de Mozart / maitre de la chapelle de
S: A: R: / l'archeveque de et / à / Salzbourg

Vienne ce 21 de decembre

Mon très cher Père!¹

1782

[5] Just as great as my longing had been to finally read a letter² from you after 3 weeks was my dismay at its content on reading it; – in short, we both found ourselves in the same state of anxiety!³ – Let me tell you that I answered your last letter⁴ of 4th Decemb.^{bre}; I therefore expected a reply within a week – [10] nothing came; – very well; I simply thought perhaps you had not had time; – and because I read at least a little hint of something pleasant for us in your letter we thought you were already on the way!⁵ – on the following post-day there was again nothing for me – despite that, I wanted to write, but was unexpectedly called away to Countess Thun⁶ and therefore prevented; – [15] That was the start of our anxiety! – But we comforted ourselves with the thought that at least one of you would certainly have written; – then at last your letter came today, and from it I see that you have not received my last letter; – I cannot believe that it could have gone astray in the post; it must therefore have been the maid who lined her pockets with the money! – But by God! [20] I would rather give such a *gutter-snipe*⁷ 6 kreuzers then lose a letter *malapropos*;⁸ – and it is of course not always possible to go oneself; – but we now have another maid, and I have already delivered a whole sermon to her on the subject; – what most angers me in the matter is that both of you have put up with so much in the process, [25] and that I can no longer so exactly remember everything that I wrote; –

I know this much: that I went to the *concert at Gallinin's*;⁹ – that I wrote to tell you, among other things, that my poor little wife has to content herself in the meantime with a little *silhouette portrait*¹⁰ of you which she always carries with her in her pocket and kisses certainly 20 times a day; – [30] and that if you find an opportunity, you might be so good as to send me the *new symphony* which I wrote for Hafner as you asked;¹¹ if only I can be sure of having it by Lent, for I would much like to perform at in my *concert*. – that you would perhaps be curious to know what kind of little *silhouette portrait* this is? – Yes? – [35] but also that I would like to know what this might be that you so urgently want to discuss with me?¹² – and about spring!¹³ – –

That is all that I can recollect; – damn the serving girl! For I cannot know whether there may not after all have been something in it which I would not be at all pleased about if it

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / My very dear father! / Vienna, this 21st day of December, 1782”.

² BD: No. 0712, lost.

³ BD: Because of the losses of Nos. 0709 and 0711.

⁴ BD: No. 0709, lost.

⁵ BD: After declining to travel to Salzburg with Constanze, Mozart was now anticipating a visit to Vienna by Leopold.

⁶ “Gräfin”. BD: Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein, Vienna, appears frequently in the letters as a patroness of Mozart, although only until 1782. Was also acquainted with Baron van Swieten. Mozart played there on 14th December, 1782.

⁷ “Canaille” = canaglia (Italian).

⁸ = “At such an unfavourable moment”.

⁹ BD: Dmitriy Michaylovitch, Prince Golitsyn, Russian ambassador in Vienna 1762 to 1792. The concert was on 4th December, 1782.

¹⁰ BD: Lost.

¹¹ BD: KV 385, written for the ennobling of Siegmund Haffner the Younger, the Salzburg merchant.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0692/42-44.

¹³ BD: Possible visit to Salzburg by Wolfgang and Constanze. Cf. No. 0710/5 ff.

got into other hands; – [40] but I believe there was not, and hope there was not, and am simply pleased and content that both of you are in good health; – my wife and I, praise God, are completely well.

Is it true that the Archbishop is coming to Vienna after New Year?¹⁴ – Countess Litzow¹⁵ has been here for 3 weeks already, and I only learned of it yesterday; [45] – Prince Gallizin¹⁶ told me; – I have been *engaged* for all his *concerts*; I am always collected with his *equipage*, and brought back home, and there I am *treated* in the noblest manner in the world; – on the 10th my *opera* was again performed, to applause on all sides and indeed for the 14th time, and it was as full as the first time – or rather as – every time. [50] Count Rosenberg¹⁷ spoke to me personally at Gallizin's, asking if I would be so good as to write an Italian *opera*; – I have already given a *commission* to ensure I have the text books of the latest *opere buffe* to choose from, but have not yet received anything. I have written to Ignaz Hagenauer¹⁸ myself concerning the matter; – at Easter Italian singers, male and female, are coming here. – I beg you to send me the address of Lugiati¹⁹ in Verona [55]; – I would like to try that path too.

Recently a new *opera*, or rather a *play* with *ariettas*, by Umlauff²⁰ was performed, with the title: Which is the best Nation?²¹ – a miserable piece which I was to have written, but did not take on, adding that whoever sets it without having it completely changed is running the risk of being whistled off stage; [60] – and if it had not been Umlauff, it would certainly have been whistled off the stage; but as it was, it was only hissed at; – but that was no wonder, for even with the most beautiful *musique* one would not have been able to stand it; but as it was, to cap it all, the *musique* in it was also so bad that I do not know if the poet or the composer will carry off the Prize of Misery; – for the sake of appearances it was nevertheless put on a second time,²² but I believe it will now be *Punctum Satis*.²³ –

Now I must close, otherwise I will miss the post. My dear wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally
[70] your most obedient children
W: et C: Mozart mp²⁴

¹⁴ BD: This did not happen.

¹⁵ “Gräfin”. BD: Countess [Gräfin] Lützwow, a niece of Salzburg Archbishop Hieronymus and wife of the commandant of the fortress in Salzburg.

¹⁶ “Prinz”. BD: = Golicyn (note on line 26).

¹⁷ “Graf”. BD: Franz Xaver Wolf, Count [Graf] (later Prince [Fürst]) Orsini-Rosenberg (1723-1796), administrator in Vienna, later “General Director of Spectacles” in Vienna.

¹⁸ BD: Ignaz Hagenauer, fifth son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

¹⁹ BD: Pietro Lugiati (1724-1788), provincial tax official in Verona; cf. No. 0152/65.

²⁰ BD: Ignaz Umlauf (1746-1796), established composer, viola player and music director in Vienna.

²¹ BD: *Welche ist die beste Nation*, text by Cornelius Hermann von Ayernhoff.

²² BD: The records of the Burgtheater mention only one performance.

²³ = “Full stop, enough”.

²⁴ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.