

Vienne ce 4 de Janvier
1783

*Mon très cher Père!*²

I cannot possibly write much because we are just coming in from Baroness Waldstätten's,³ I must first change entirely from head to foot [5] because I have been invited to the *concert* given by Herr Spielmann, the court counsellor.⁴ – We both thank you for the New Year's Wish and freely confess ourselves to be oxen for completely forgetting our obligation – we therefore fulfil it in arrears and send no New Year's Wish, but send our general everyday wish – and we will leave the matter at that; – [10] as far as the *moral side* is concerned everything is entirely as it should be; – it was not without intention that it flowed from my pen – I have truly promised it in my heart,⁵ and also truly hope to keep it. – My wife was still single when I promised it – but since I was firmly resolved to marry her soon after her recuperation, I could promise it easily – [15] but time and circumstances thwarted our journey, as you know yourself; – but the score of half of a Mass, which is still lying there in the best of hopes, can serve as proof of the reality of my promise. –

Today I gained the elder *Countess Balfi*⁶ as a pupil, that is, the daughter <of the Archbishop's sister> – but I ask you to keep it to yourself for the moment [20], since I cannot know for certain if they are happy to have it known – The *symphony* from the last Hafner⁷ *musique* finished in Vienna: it is all the same to me whether in *score* or written out, for I must have it written out several times for my *concert* anyway. – I would also wish to have the following *symphonies*:



[25] and that as soon as possible. – Then, there are also *counterpoints* by Eberlin on small paper in a blue binding, and a number of

Sau⁸

Porco

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Cochon.

Sus

¹ This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "Vienna, this 4th day of January, 1783 / My very dear father".

³ "von der Baron Waldstätten". BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baronin Waldstätten, a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten.

⁴ "Hofrath". BD: Anton, Baron [Freiherr] von Spielmann (1738-1813), had a considerable career in the state administration. His daughter was a pupil of Streicher and Joseph Haydn.

⁵ BD: The promise and circumstances are unclear. Nissen states that it was a promise for the event of Constanze's bearing a child.

⁶ "Contesse". BD: Josepha Gabriela Pálffy (*1765).

⁷ BD: KV 385, written for the ennobling of Siegmund Haffner the Younger, the Salzburg merchant.

⁸ BD: In the original there is a large inkblot here, surrounded by the Italian, German, French and Latin words for pig.

[30] things by Haydn⁹ with it, which I would like to have because of *Baron van Suiten*,¹⁰ whom I visit every Sunday from 12 to 2 o'clock; – tell me, are there any *fugues* of significance in Haydn's *Mass settings*, or *vespers*, or both? – then you would oblige me greatly if you would have both things put into score little by little.

[35] Now I must close; – you will have received my last letter complete with the enclosure from the *Baroness*;¹¹ – she has not told me what she wrote to you, but only that she had asked you for something relating to *musique*; – but she will certainly tell me as soon as I am out there again because she sees that I am not prying into it at all, [40] for she has a great deal of whimsy; – but I have heard at third hand that she would like to have a person for herself¹² since she will be leaving – then I will only warn her that if this is true, you should watch what she is doing, because she is as changeable as the wind – and probably, regardless of what she imagines, she will find it difficult leaving Vienna; – [45] for she has been about to leave as long as I have had the honour of knowing her. – Now *adieu*, we kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obed. children

W. et C: Mozart mp¹³

N.B. only 3 *concertos*¹⁴ are being published,
[50] and the price is 4 ducats.¹⁵

⁹ BD: Michael Haydn.

¹⁰ BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had responsibilities in education in Vienna. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn's "Seven Last Words" and "The Seasons". Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed music himself.

¹¹ "Baronin". BD: Referring to the letter (No. 0714, lost) from Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten enclosed with a letter from Wolfgang, cf. No. 0715/27.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0715/2 ff.

¹³ mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".

¹⁴ BD: On 28th December (No. 0715), one of the three, KV 414 (385p) was finished, KV 413 (387a) and 415 (387b) were yet to come. The subscription was unsuccessful; Mozart then offered the works to Sieber in Paris, again unsuccessfully. Finally, Artaria in Vienna advertised the concertos.

¹⁵ BD: = 18 florins.