

*Mon très cher Père!**Vienne ce 8 de Janvier [1783]¹*

If it weren't for poor Fink,² I would truly have to ask forgiveness for today and put off writing until next post-day because I still have to finish a *Rondo*³ for my sister-in-law Lange⁴ this evening, [5] which she will sing on Saturday in a grand concert in the Mehlgrube;⁵ – you will in the meantime have received my last letter and seen from it that I knew nothing of the Baroness's⁶ *commission*; but I had almost imagined it, and also learned of it under the hand, and accordingly, because I know this lady only too well, gave you a little warning to be cautious. [10] – First of all, I must tell you that Fink is not at all suitable for her; – for she wishes to have a person for herself and not for her children; so you see now that it depends more on taste, feeling and *brilliant* execution; – and *figured bass* and *organist*-like *improvising of preludes* would be of no use to her at all; – then you must also realise that under the word herself – for herself – mentioned above a great deal is understood; – she has often had someone of that kind in the house already – but it has never lasted long; – you can now think whatever you like about it – enough – it is because of scenes like this that people speak about her quite ambiguously – she is weak – but I will say no more – and this morsel only for you – for – I have enjoyed too much graciousness from her and [20] – it is my duty to defend her as much as possible – or at least to remain silent. – Now she says – she will set off for Presburg⁷ in some days and stay there; – I believe it – and do not believe it; – if I were in your place, I would try to do a very neat job of turning the matter down; – [25] Now I must close, otherwise the *aria* will not be finished. – Yesterday my *opera*⁸ was performed again to the fullest of theatres and the greatest of applause. Do not forget my symphonies. – *Adieu* – my wife, who is quite tubby – |: but only around the stomach :| and I both kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart, [30] and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children
W et C Mozart mp⁹

¹ “My very dear father! / Vienna, this 8th day of January, 1783.”

² BD: The Salzburg court trumpeter Ignaz Finck was temporarily resident in Vienna and apparently had the task of bringing a letter from Leopold to Wolfgang. Leopold had presumably recommended Fink to Baroness von Waldstätten as a companion (perhaps the matter raised in the secretive enclosure sent to Leopold by the Baroness and speculated on in No. 0719/35-45), but Mozart considered him unsuitable for the position.

³ BD: Recitative and Rondo KV 416; the first composition for Aloisia Lange after a break of three years. In total he wrote these works for her: KV 294; 316 (300b); 383; 416; 418; 419; 538.

⁴ BD: Aloisia Lange, neé Weber, Mozart's first major romantic interest and, as he admits in No. 0596/27, "not yet a matter of indifference" to him.

⁵ BD: Probably one of the concerts arranged by Jakob Philipp Martin. Mehlgrube: a large house which passed into municipal ownership and was for a long time used for storage and regulation of flour. It was later used for balls and concerts.

⁶ “Baronnes”. BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten (1744-1811), a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten, a high official in Vienna.

⁷ Pressburg; now generally known as Bratislava in Slovakia.

⁸ BD: The 13th performance of *The Abduction*.

⁹ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.