

0790.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

Mon très cher Père! –

*Vienne ce 15 May 1784*²

Today I handed in to the post-coach the *symphony*³ which I wrote for old Count Thun⁴ in Linz, along with 4 *concertos*;⁵ – I am not anxious about the *symphony*, but I would ask you to have the 4 *concertos* |: copied in your presence at home :|, [5] for the copyists in Salzburg are to be trusted as little as those in Vienna; – I have quite reliable information that Hofstetter⁶ makes double *copies* of Haydn’s *musique* – I really do have his 3 latest *symphonies*.⁷ – Since no-one except me has these new *concertos*, those in *B^b* and *D*,⁸ – no one except myself and Fräulein von Ployer the ones in *E^b* and *G* |: for whom they were written :|, they could not get into anyone else’s hands except by fraud of this kind; – personally, I have everything copied in my room and in my presence; – |: after considering it :| I did not want to entrust the *musique* to Menzl; – I furthermore thought, and still think, that you will not be able to make much use of it, [15] since, with the exception of the *concerto in E^b* |: which can be performed *à quattro* without *wind instruments* :|, the other 3 have *obbligato wind instruments* throughout, and you seldom make *musique* of that kind. – By the way, I do not know what you were thinking to yourself and did not want to write down; and in order to avoid any unpleasantness, I send to your herewith all my new compositions. – [20] I do not know of anything new I could write you about, except that the Emperor⁹ wanted to leave for Pest¹⁰ today, but was hindered by erysipelas on his eye. – We are both well, praise and thanks be to God, and hope that it is likewise with all of you; we kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

[25]

obedient children,

W. & C. Mozart mp¹¹

Please give my compliments to Herr Menzl.¹² – he knows all 4 *concertos* very well.

¹ DME gives the source as a copy by Ferdinand Bischoff, made around 1870.

² = “My very dear father! / Vienna, this 15th day of May, 1784”.

³ BD: KV 452, the Linz Symphony.

⁴ “dem alten Graf Thun”. BD: Johann Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason, husband of Mozart’s patroness, Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800). It was with them that Mozart lodged with his wife returning from Salzburg in 1783 and wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425. Cf. Nos. 0766/16; 0863/8.

⁵ BD: The four clavier concertos KV 449, 450, 451 and 453.

⁶ BD: Possibly the Felix Hofstetter mentioned in the Salzburg *Hofkalender* as a member of the court music.

⁷ BD VIII, p. 126: Probably 75, 47, 62.

⁸ BD: KV 450, 451.

⁹ “kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

¹⁰ Now part of Budapest.

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

¹² BD: The violinist mentioned in Nos. 0778/18, 20; 0787/3 ff.; 0789/2.