

0793.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*À / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / Maitre de la Chapelle de S. A. R. /  
L'Archeveque de et à / Salzburg  
Mon très cher Père! –*

*Vienne ce 26 May 1784<sup>2</sup>*

With your last letter<sup>3</sup> I got the news that you have received my letter<sup>4</sup> and *musique*<sup>5</sup> safely. [5] – To my sister my thanks for her letter,<sup>6</sup> and I will certainly write to her as well, as soon as time allows: – meanwhile I would have her know that Herr Richter<sup>7</sup> erred regarding the key of the *concerto*,<sup>8</sup> or else I am reading a wrong character in her letter.<sup>9</sup> – The *concerto* which Herr Richter so praised to her is the one *in B<sup>b</sup>*.<sup>10</sup> – [10] which is the first that I composed and which he had already praised to me so much at the time. – I am not able to make a choice between these two *concertos* – I consider them both to be *concertos* which make you sweat. – Yet in difficulty the one *in B<sup>b</sup>* is a level above the one *in D*.<sup>11</sup> – Otherwise I am very curious about which of the 3 *concertos*, *B<sup>b</sup>*, *D* and *G minor*,<sup>12</sup> you and my sister like best; [15] The one<sup>13</sup> *in E<sup>b</sup>* does not belong with the others at all. – This is a *concerto* of a very special kind, and written for a small rather than a large *orchestra* – we are therefore speaking only about the 3 grand *concertos*. – I am curious whether your judgement agrees with the general judgement here, which is also my judgement; it is of course necessary to hear all 3 with all parts and well *performed*. [20] – I am quite happy to be patient until I get them back again – as long as not a soul gets his hands on them. – Just today, I could have had 24<sup>14</sup> ducats for one of them; – but I find that it is of greater advantage to me if I keep them to myself from a brief couple of years yet,<sup>15</sup> and only then make them known by having them engraved. – [25] Now I must say<sup>16</sup> something to you regarding the Schwemmers' Liserl.<sup>17</sup> She wrote to her mother, and since the *address* was in such a form that they would hardly have accepted the letter at the post office, since it looked like this:

<sup>18</sup>This letter to  
reach my most beloved  
[30] lady mother in Salzburg  
Deliver to  
Barbarüschbemer<sup>19</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Text taken from BD VIII, p. 56.

<sup>2</sup> = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg / My very dear father! / Vienna, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1784.”

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0791, lost.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 0792, lost.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0790.

<sup>6</sup> BD: No. 0792, lost.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Dutch keyboard player, cf. Nos. 0778/18, 20; 0787/3 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: KV 450.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Letter lost.

<sup>10</sup> BD: KV 450.

<sup>11</sup> BD: KV 451.

<sup>12</sup> BD: KV 453.

<sup>13</sup> BD: KV 449.

<sup>14</sup> BD: = 108 florins.

<sup>15</sup> BD: They were probably among the “6 Concerti per il Clavi Cembalo” by Mozart advertised by Lauch on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1784.

<sup>16</sup> BD VIII: “erzählen” [“relate”] crossed out, “sagen” [“say”] written above it.

<sup>17</sup> BD VIII, p. 127: Maria Anna Elisabeth Schwemmer, Mozart's house servant, cf. No. 0771/38-39. Her mother was an aunt of Therese Päncklin, the servant in Leopold Mozart's household mentioned frequently in the letters. Schwemmer probably married an otherwise unknown “Rüschbaumer”.

<sup>18</sup> English left as in the original.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Barbara Rüschbaumer? Neither the person nor the address have been identified.

in the Jews' Lane in mer  
chant eberl's house  
on third floor.

[35]

I told her I would prefer to put another *address* on it. – Out of inquisitiveness and more in order to see more of the fine composition than to come across confidentialities, I broke the letter open. – In it she complains that she has to go to bed too late and get up too early – I believe one can get enough sleep from 11 o'clock to 6 o'clock. [40] That makes 7 hours, after all. – We do not go to bed until 12 o'clock, and get up at half past 5, even 5 o'clock because we go to the Augarten<sup>20</sup> almost every morning. She furthermore complains about the food, and indeed with the most *impertinent* expressions: – she has to starve – the four of us, being my wife, I, the cook and she, did not have as much to eat as her mother and she had together. [45] – you know that I have only taken this girl on for the moment purely out feeling sorry for her, so that she has support as a stranger in Vienna. – we promised her 12 guldens<sup>21</sup> per year, with which she was quite satisfied, although she is now complaining about it in her letter. – and what does she have to do? – clean the table, [50] serve the food and take it back, and help my wife putting on and taking off dresses. – Otherwise, with the exception of her sewing, she is the clumsiest and stupidest person in the world. – She cannot even light a fire, let alone make coffee. – and a person who wants to present herself as a chambermaid should surely be able to do that. – [55] we gave her one gulden; the next day she was already asking for money again. – She had to present to me an account of her expenses, and there most of the expenses came down to drinking beer. – A certain Herr *Johannes* travelled with her, but I no longer permit him to show his face here. – He came to her twice when we were out, sent for wine, and the girl, [60] who is not accustomed to drinking wine, swigged herself so full that she could not walk, but had to hold herself up, and the last time vomited all over her bed. – what people would keep a person who behaves like this? – I would have been content with the sermon which I gave her on this and not have written anything about it, but her *impertinence* in the letter to her mother induced me to do so. [65] I therefore ask you to send for her mother and say to her that I will tolerate her in our house a little longer, but she should arrange for her to enter service elsewhere – if I were willing to make people unhappy, I could send her away on the spot. – in your letter there is also something about a certain Herr *Antoni* – perhaps this is a future worthy bridegroom. –

[70] Now I must close. – my wife thanks both of you for your wishes for her pregnancy and her coming confinement, which will apparently take place in the first days of *October*. – we both kiss your hands and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

[80] I beg you to send me the buckles<sup>22</sup>  
with the next post-coach

most obedient children,  
*W. et C. Mozart*

– I am burning with curiosity to see them. –

*P.S.* regarding the apron of fine woollen cloth, goose, crêpe or *Merlin*,<sup>23</sup> we have not yet been able to undertake anything because my wife does not know if an undecorated one would be of service to you. – These apparently cost one *ducat*,<sup>24</sup> but are not for wearing. – But one with a little pretty decoration on it costs at least 7 guldens in local currency. – we are therefore waiting for your next letter, and then your wish shall be fulfilled at once. *Addio*.

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<sup>20</sup> BD: Gardens and palace, today in Vienna's 2<sup>nd</sup> administrative *Bezirk*, originally laid out by Emperor Friedrich III (1440-1493), opened to the public by Emperor Joseph II in 1775.

<sup>21</sup> Guldens are broadly equivalent in value to florins.

<sup>22</sup> BD: The shoe-buckles inset with precious stones presented to him by Fürst von Fürstenberg (cf. No. 782).

<sup>23</sup> BD: Presumably Marling.

<sup>24</sup> BD: = 4.5 florins.