

Salzb., 17th March,
1786.

On Election Day,² Heinrich³ played the *concerto* on Nannerl Rader's⁴ *fortepiano* to the greatest applause. This *fortepiano* is extremely easy to play, [5] but this is also the reason why it is much quieter, because the hammers have no force when they strike, since they are too close to the strings. This is the consequence if, in order to retain the far too pronounced ease of playing, one adopts the measure of making the *key* movement far too shallow. One need hardly touch it, and immediately one has a sound in piano; but one cannot put any force into it in forte, [10] because the hammers have no momentum for striking, and immediately touch the strings from close up. On Wednesday, at the *casino* music,⁵ there was an astonishing crowd of people, like at a *ball*, even the old Herr Hagenauer⁶ was there too. I have no programme from the first *concert*. The programme from the last one is enclosed. – Yesterday, at 2 o'clock, we went out to the administrator's⁷ and found [15] Wenzl Sadlo,⁸ who had died at half past 10 in the morning, laid out on the board. The gingerbread maker Lewitsch died suddenly from a stroke yesterday. Numerous cathedral canons are here, as you can both imagine, because there was election money to pick up; all the nobility and others etc. were uninterruptedly paying me the greatest compliments on account of Marchand.⁹ [20] On Sunday I wrote to Munich because of *Gluck's opera Orpheo* and *Euridice* because they want to sing it *concertante* on the last *casino* day, and Count Seau¹⁰ sent me all the parts, already written out, in a 3 span-high¹¹ package which was already there yesterday by post-coach. I am also *corresponding* about getting an *oboist*, Herr Hirschvogel, from Munich to replace *Feiner*,¹² and he is willing to come for 20 florins per month [25] if he is given a *decree* for a life-long appointment.

Replying to your letter, which the messenger¹³ has just brought: – – –

Count Arco¹⁴ has been declared Royal High Steward,¹⁵ – That was *promotion* in title only, for now he is in fact both Royal High Steward and Senior Chamberlain.¹⁶

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as “Frau Tochter” [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as “Herr Sohn” [esteemed son].

² Anniversary of the Archbishop's election.

³ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold's home for three years.

⁴ BD: Presumably the person named in 0871/65, 70.

⁵ BD: Subscription concerts held in the city hall in Lent, cf. No. 0939/10 ff.

⁶ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Sometime landlord and friend to the Mozart family.

⁷ BD: Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital [“St John's Hospital”] close to Salzburg. His son was a pupil of Leopold's.

⁸ BD: Saldo had been a violinist in the Salzburg court music since 1745, also played hunting horn. As was usual, he was also a servant of the antechamber.

⁹ = Heinrich above.

¹⁰ “Graf”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0300/11.

¹¹ 1 span = distance between outstretched thumb and middle finger.

¹² BD: Regarding his strange departure from service cf. No. 0918/5 ff.

¹³ BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a carter who came to Salzburg once a week. The “glass-carrier woman” also provided a service on this route.

Everyone wishes that *Robini Louise*¹⁷ had already overcome it, so wretched is she. [30] A *skeleton*. –

I have received the money, the 9 florins. I would not have included the invoice in the letter if I had not firmly accepted the glass-carrier woman's¹⁸ word for it that she would take the things with her.

Leopoldl¹⁹ has had trouble with his teeth for some days now, [35] is therefore only occasionally in a good mood and not always. Heinrich is half a nursery maid, and also busily gobbles up the left-over semolina crusts.

I will keep Leopoldl here with me as long as I am capable of supporting him, God sees my good heart, he knows how to arrange everything else, the fate of all mankind is in his hands. [40] I will immediately enquire regarding a good, hard-working servant according to the description you gave me.

Heinrich commends himself and hopes to see both of you again soon. His violin and keyboard playing is outstanding.

This morning the clerical Herr Egedacher²⁰ called to take leave of me, [45] as he was leaving immediately for the Franciscan *Fathers* in Hundsdorf²¹ with the Chamber Footman.²² When I come out to you, I will bring back with me that music of his which you still have and send it to him. He took leave of me with tears in his eyes.

The *casino concert* will be given at least 3 times after Easter as well, [50] just like back then, *anno* 1781, when we came from Munich and I brought Heinrich with me. The last time there were not only members of the consistory there, but also the professors from the university and 3 canons from St. *Zeno* monastery, who came here specially for the occasion, and at 9 o'clock, when it was over, climbed into the coach again and drove home. [55] Next Wednesday Heinrich will play a *concerto*, probably on the *pianoforte* that once belonged to *Leopold Arco*. – Now the Imperial Court Councillor Count von Firmian²³ is here too, both he and his brother from Passau, the heir, look wretched, like the seven lean years; they too were at the city hall, both have consumption in the neck. The lucky thing is that the *heir* has 3 sons, [60] one of whom is a cathedral canon here, and the two younger ones are in Passau.

This morning, the 18th

¹⁴ “Graf”. BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1705-1792), occupied a series of important positions at court. Now succeeding Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786).

¹⁵ “Obersthofmeister”.

¹⁶ “OberstCämmerer”.

¹⁷ BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise, daughter of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760)

¹⁸ BD: From letter No. 0808 (September, 1784) onwards, the “glasträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun had established a glassworks in 1701.

¹⁹ BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather's death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

²⁰ BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the deceased court organ builder was often called.

²¹ BD: Near Bruck, south-east of the Zeller See, where a Franciscan Hospice existed in the 18th century.

²² “Kammerbothen”.

²³ “ReichsHofrath Graf”. BD: Imperial Court Counsellor [Reichshofrat] Ernst, Count [Graf] Firmian, the younger of the two brothers.

Leopoldl is lively again, it was a wilderness,²⁴ as women customarily say here; even yesterday and this morning I saw, and one still sees, little red marks and pustules etc. the acid has come out in a rash in just the way this happens with children. [65] He kisses you both, he has just smiled at me and laughed squeakily because one notices he is still obstructed with mucus, since he cannot shout out properly as he does when he is in high spirits. I am sending with this the chocolate à 1 florin 30.

I kiss you both from the heart, send my greetings to the children and am as always
your sincere father
[70]

Mozart mp²⁵

²⁴ BD: The word *Wildnis*, literally meaning *wilderness*, is sometimes used speaking of a rash.

²⁵ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.