

1082.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO HIS SISTER,<sup>2</sup> ST. GILGEN

À / *Madame / Madame Marie anne de / Sonnenbourg née Mozart /*  
à / Salzburg. In St. Gilgen / in the administrative building.

Dearest sister!

[Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1788]

You would be quite justified in being angry with me! – [5] but will you still be angry with me when you receive the latest keyboard pieces<sup>3</sup> from me with this post-coach? – Oh no! – This will hopefully bring everything back into its regular track. –

Since you are no doubt convinced that I wish you every possible good thing every day, you will also be able to view with clemency the fact that I am limping in rather late with my good wishes on your name-day;<sup>4</sup> [10] – dearest sister, – I wish you with my whole heart, with my whole soul, everything that you believe would be most profitable for yourself, and with that full-stop. –

Dear sister! – You cannot doubt that I have a great deal to do – and you also know very well that I am somewhat lazy when it comes to writing letters; – [15] so do not take offence if I seldom write to you; – but this should not prevent you from writing often to me; – my great reluctance in writing letters is matched only by my happiness in receiving them. – You also have more to write about than I do, since more things *interest* me in Salzburg than *interest* you in Vienna. –

Now I must ask you for something; – [20] I would very much like it if Haydn<sup>5</sup> would lend me for a time the scores of the 2 tutti Masses and the Graduals which he wrote;<sup>6</sup> – I would send them back to him again with all my thanks. – It is now precisely a year since I wrote to him<sup>7</sup> and invited him to visit me, but he has not replied; – in answering he seems to have much in common with me, don't you find? – My pressing request is therefore that you should achieve all this in the following way: [25] – invite him out to visit you, and play something of the new pieces to him; – the *trio* and *quartet* will not displease him. – *adieu*, dearest sister! – as soon as new music has collected here, I will send it to you; – I am eternally

*P.S.* My wife sends her  
[30] choicest *compliments* and we both send  
*compliments* to our dear esteemed brother-in-law.

your sincere brother  
W: A: Mozart mp<sup>8</sup>

*P.S.* To give you an answer on the point about the service I have entered,<sup>9</sup> the Emperor<sup>10</sup> has taken me into the chamber, with a corresponding formal decree; for the moment , however,

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Possibly Mozart's last letter to his sister (cf. No. 1213/39-40). The original bears the following remarks in an unknown hand: "Don Giovanni had already been composed when this letter was written, this in order to find out the date of it." and "Seems to have been written in July 1788."

<sup>2</sup> 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].

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1061/13-14; No.107/10. The works have not been identified, but include trios and quartets (cf. line 26). Possibilities are KV 540, 545, 547, 547b; the trio could be KV 542 or KV 548; the quartet is probably KV 493.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Anna: 26<sup>th</sup> July.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. During his Vienna years, Mozart frequently asked for music by Michael Haydn to be sent from Salzburg so that he could perform it at van Swieten's.

<sup>6</sup> BD: It is not possible to say which of the many works of this type by Michael Haydn are referred to.

<sup>7</sup> BD: No. 1061a (lost).

<sup>8</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 107/6-7. "Chamber composer" with 800 florins per annum.

with only 800 florins: – but there is no-one else in the chamber who gets as much. [35] – When my Prague opera *Don Giovanni* |: which just happens to be on stage again today :| was performed, the notice, on which there was certainly not too much written since it is published by the Imperial and Royal theatre *management*, said this: – the Music is by Herr Mozart, music director,<sup>11</sup> in actual service to His Imperial and Royal Majesty.<sup>12</sup>

WRITTEN ON THE LETTER IN A FOREIGN HAND:

D. Giovanni had been composed by the time this letter was written; this fact in order to find out the date of the letter. Seems to have been written in July, 1788.

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<sup>10</sup> BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

<sup>11</sup> BD: This was indeed written on the notice (“*kapellmeister*”), but is inaccurate. Giuseppe Bonno was the only music director at court.

<sup>12</sup> “in wirklichen diensten seiner k: k: Majestätt”.