

Your Royal Hi

[Vienna, first half of May, 1790]

I am so bold as to ask Your R. H., in all reverence, to speak most graciously on my behalf to H. Maj. the King³ regarding my most submissive petition directed to His Most High Person.⁴ – Eagerness for fame, love of productiveness and a firm conviction regarding my knowledge [5] join together to spur me on to dare to ask for a position as deputy music director, especially since the very skilful music dir *Salieri*⁵ has never dedicated himself to the church style, whereas I have from my youth have made this style completely my own. The little fame that the world has given me because of my playing of the *piano-forte* also encourages me to ask for the most high favour [10] of having the music teaching of the Royal family most graciously entrusted to me. –

Completely persuaded that I have turned to the most worthy and, towards me, especially gracious ~~patron~~ intermediary, ~~I therefore hope for all this, and am prepared to add constantly to this by most active diligence, faithfulness and uprightness – [15] to and indeed. – favour]~~⁶ I live in the greatest of confidence, – and will ~~myself~~ st . . . conduc carry out services . . . Y . . . self to persuade that

¹ BD: A draft. Crossings out by Mozart. Archduke Franz (1768-1835), eldest son of Leopold II, German Emperor 1792-1807, from 1804 Emperor of Austria (as Franz/Francis I). He served his "apprenticeship" in Vienna from 1784 onwards. In 1788 married Princess [Prinzessin] Elizabeth Wilhelmine Louise von Württemberg, whom Mozart had always hoped (in vain) to gain as a pupil. It is doubtful whether Mozart ever presented the letter being prepared here.

² "Erzherzog Franz von Österreich".

³ BD: "King": Leopold was not elected Emperor until 30th September, 1790; until then his highest title was that of King (of Bohemia and Hungary). Members of his family were therefore also still "Royal" and not "Imperial".

⁴ "allerhöchstdieselben".

⁵ BD: Antonio Salieri, composer, succeeded Bonno as court music director in Vienna in 1788.

⁶ BD: From this point on frequently illegible.