

Dearest, most treasured little wife

[Vienna, 14th October, 1791]

Yesterday, Thursday the 13th, Hofer³ travelled out with me to *Carl*,⁴ we ate out there, then we drove into town, at 6 o'clock I collected *Salieri*⁵ and *Cavalieri*⁶ with the coach, and drove them to the *box*⁷ – [5] then I went quickly to collect Mama and *Carl*, whom I had left at Hofer's in the meantime. You would not believe how *charming* they both were, – how very much they liked not only my music, but the plot and everything together. – They both said a grand opera⁸ – worthy to be performed at the greatest *festivity* before the greatest monarchs, – and they would certainly see it very often, [10] for they never seen a more beautiful and more pleasing *spectacle*. – He⁹ listened and looked with rapt attention, and there was not a number, from the *symphony* to the final chorus, which did not coax a *bravo* or *bello* out of him, and they could hardly stop thanking me for this favour; they had been thinking of going to the opera the whole time yesterday, but they would have had to be sitting inside by 4 o'clock, [15] but this way they saw and heard it at their ease. – After the theatre I had them driven home, and I took *supper* with *Carl* at Hofer's. – Then I drove home with him, where we both slept splendidly. It was no small joy that I gave *Carl* by collecting him for the opera. – He looks splendid – there is no better place you could find for his health, [20] but all the rest is unfortunately miserable! – They may be capable of raising good peasants for the world! – But enough of that, I have asked for *Carl* to be excused until Sunday afternoon, because the main *studies* |: God have mercy |: do not [begin]¹⁰ until Monday; I said that you would like to see him – tomorrow, Sunday, I will bring him out to you – then you can keep him with you, or I will drive him back to Hecker¹¹ on Sunday afternoon; – reflect on it, he will surely not be ruined because of one month, I think! – In the meantime the story with the Piarists¹² could work out, and this is being worked on seriously. – Otherwise he may be no worse, but neither is he a jot better, than he always was. He is continuing in the same unfortunate manner, likes as always to plague others, [30] and is almost less keen on learning because out there he does nothing for 5 hours in the morning and 5 in the afternoon other than walk round the garden, as he admitted to me himself; in a word, the children do nothing except eat, drink, sleep and go for walks. At the moment *Leitgeb*¹³ and Hofer are with me; – the former will stay with me to eat, [35] I have just sent my faithful comrade *Primus*¹⁴ to the Burgesses' Hospital¹⁵ for food; – I am very satisfied indeed with the fellow; only once has he let me down, forcing me to sleep

¹ BD: Original lost. Copy Bspk (c. 1850); copy privately owned Salzburg (c. 1830). Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and had spa treatment in Baden on previous occasions; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

³ BD: The violinist Franz Hofer, Mozart's brother-in-law.

⁴ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. Since 1787 at a private school in Perchtoldsdorf about 13km south-west of Vienna (cf. line 40).

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

⁶ BD: Catarina Cavalieri (1755 in Vienna – 1801 in Vienna), trained by Salieri, active in German and Italian opera troupes in Vienna 1778-1793, sang *Konstanze* in the première of the *Abduction*, *Donna Elvira* in the Vienna première of *Don Giovanni*, *Demoiselle Silberklang* in the *Schauspieldirektor*, and the *Gräfin* in the Vienna performance of *Figaro* on 28th August, 1789; Mozart wrote for her KV 469 No. 8; KV 540c.

⁷ BD: A box at the theatre where *The Magic Flute* was being performed.

⁸ BD: *The Magic Flute*; likewise lines 14 and 18. In the sources (original is lost) the variants 'opera' (c. 1850) and 'operone' (1830) ['grand opera'] appear.

⁹ BD: Salieri.

¹⁰ BD: Word missing, "begin" supplied.

¹¹ BD: Wenzel Bernhard Heeger, in charge of the school in Perchtoldsdorf.

¹² BD: Cf. Nos. 1170/28, 1195/48.

¹³ BD: Word missing, "begin" supplied.

¹⁴ BD: Supposedly the nickname of the waiter Joseph Deiner in the inn "Zur goldenen Schlange".

¹⁵ "Bürgerspital". BD: A hospital run as a charity.

at Hofer's, which annoyed me greatly because they sleep too long for me. I most prefer being at home, because I am entirely accustomed to my order. This was the single occasion when he put me in an evil humour. [40] Yesterday the journey to *Bernstorf*¹⁶ cost me the whole day, which is why I could not write – but for you not to write to me for 2 days is unforgivable, but today I firmly hope to receive news from you, and tomorrow to speak to you face-to-face, and to kiss you from the heart.

[45] Farewell, eternally your
Mozart

the 14th 8br.¹⁷ 791.

I kiss *Sophie*¹⁸ a thousand times, with *X.Y.*¹⁹ do what you want. *adieu*.

¹⁶ BD: Correctly “Perchtoldsdorf”, in dialect “Petersdorf”.

¹⁷ = October.

¹⁸ BD: Constanze's youngest sister.

¹⁹ BD: Probably Süßmayr.