

1233. CONSTANZE MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

Most honoured sirs,

[Vienna, before 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1799]

I was just on the point of sealing the following letter when I received your much valued communication of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding the 108 florins owed to me, I received enclosed 2 payment orders, [5] namely

one to Herr Wapler<sup>3</sup> for 42 fl. 15<sup>kr</sup> 4 and

one to Herr Preindl<sup>5</sup> for 54 fl. 30<sup>kr</sup>, which I shall put to your account as soon they are paid, and I note the remainder as 5 fl. 15<sup>kr</sup>.

Herr Wapler recently told me that you now can no longer send him orders for more than he has to your account. With Herr Preindl I will proceed according to your instructions. [10]

I know of the existence of two portraits *en face*<sup>6</sup> of my late husband, for which I will make great efforts. I myself took a fancy to two beautiful ones in wax, but *en silhouette*, the most beautiful of which I will lend you if you can make use of it. He was not at all happy about being depicted *en face*. [15]

The musical items available from me are principally:

Grand *clavier concertos*,

*Symphonies*,

Large-scale works, *operas*, *oratorios*.

[20] Perhaps the best thing would be for us to make agreements according to genre. Please do me the favour of informing me with which part of the above classification we should begin.

There are also *arias* in great quantity.

Can you make immediate use of a *quintet* for the glass harmonica?<sup>7</sup> The only one which Mozart wrote. [25]

I have the honour to commend myself to you and am, with the choicest compliments,  
most honoured sirs,

your most obedient servant,

Constance Mozart

[30]

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: cf. note No. 1224.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Publisher in Vienna. Freemason. Publications included a book on mineralogy and the text of Handel's *Messiah*. Correspondent for Breitkopf & Härtel.

<sup>4</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Joseph Preindl (1756-1823), from 1793 music director at the Peterskirche ["St. Peter's Church"] in Vienna, from 1795 also adjunct music director at St. Stephan; applied for the post of Imperial and Royal Chamber Composer [k.k. Kammerkompositeur] left vacant by Mozart, but it was decided that the post was dispensable.

<sup>6</sup> BD: = full face.

<sup>7</sup> BD: KV 617, cf. No. 1152, written for the blind glass harmonica virtuoso Marianne Kirchgessner.