

1250. MARIA ANNA, IMPERIAL BARONESS<sup>1</sup> VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG,<sup>2</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>3</sup> LEIPZIG

Messrs. / Messers Breitkopf & Härtel / famous book printers / booksellers and type / founders / in / Leipzig. Postage paid.<sup>4</sup>

St. Gilgen, 4<sup>th</sup> August  
1799.

Nobly born, most honoured sir!

[5] I am not so remiss as not to reply at once to the communication you sent me on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.<sup>5</sup> Since I live quite separated from the world, I knew nothing more about this than that my sister-in-law had written to me<sup>6</sup> stating that Messrs. Breitkopf and Märtel<sup>7</sup> wish to publish all my brother's works, and even less have I set eye on any of it: [10] I therefore do not know how extensive this edition is.

Of my brother's scores, I sent all those which were still in our father's hands to my brother in Vienna immediately<sup>8</sup> after the death of our father in the year 1787, but personally I regret that I did not keep back some of the compositions of his youth, [15] I would have kept them securely, since I have, in contrast to him, a safe pair of hands, and I have heard from an eyewitness that in his house the scores always simply lay around under the *clavier*, and the copyists were able take any of them they chose, and I found this all the more credible because I was well aware that my brother had less and less patience with his earlier works [20] the more skilful he grew as a composer; I therefore do not doubt that many of the works of his youth will have been lost.

As an enclosure I send you a catalogue he drew up at the age of 12.<sup>9</sup> The scores of all these works should be in the possession of his widow. For those compositions which he wrote after the age of 12, [25] I have found no further catalogue. Regarding the story of my brother's life, I was greatly struck that you make no mention of the necrology by the esteemed Professor Schlichtegroll, which does in fact contain a genuine biography of my brother, for which, at the instigation of a friend, I submitted an essay which the esteemed Professor left pretty much unchanged; [30] I also sent him excerpts from letters and documents, and epigrams written with great zest and spirit, but the esteemed Professor left them out, perhaps because the quantity would have added considerably to the length of his work and because he did not wish to demean them by translation, since they are written in French, Italian and German. [35] If you wish me to send you my essay besides all these documents, please be so kind as to tell me.

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<sup>1</sup> "Reichsfreiin".

<sup>2</sup> BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829), Wolfgang's sister. After her marriage in 1784 two and administrator for official her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> BD: Address in another hand.

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 1245b (lost).

<sup>6</sup> BD: No. 1249 (lost).

<sup>7</sup> BD: Erroneously instead of "Härtel".

<sup>8</sup> BD: The "at once" should not be taken all too literally, since "the little box with my scores" was not in Mozart's hands in December, 1787. Cf. No. 1074/8-10.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Compiled by Leopold in 1768: "Verzeichniss alles desjenigen, was dieser 12jährige Knab seit seinem 7<sup>ten</sup> Jahre componiert, und in originali aufgezeigt werden" ["Catalogue of all those things that this 12-year-old boy has composed since the age of 7 and shown in the original"]. Cf. title page facsimile No. 0144fac.

But I have never heard anything about a biography by the esteemed Professor Niemtscheck,<sup>10</sup> would however wish to read it myself in order to be able to form an opinion of it.

[40] You wish to come into the possession of German songs<sup>11</sup> which my brother composed before 1784,<sup>12</sup> but as far as I can remember he did not compose any German songs at all at that time,<sup>13</sup> but a great number of Italian *arias*,<sup>14</sup> and for these too his wife must have the scores. I possess some songs, only as copies, accompanied by *harmoniale*,<sup>15</sup> and a French *aria*, [45] but I do not know whether this was written before or after 1784. I enclose the French aria for you here, and for the songs I include for you the opening bars. The musical journal you wrote of, saying that it appeared last year around Michaelmas, is as unknown to me as the advertisement for my brother's works.

[50] It would be a pleasure for me if I could place more complete information at your disposal, remaining, with the greatest respect,

most willing to be of service,  
Maria Anna, Imperial Baroness von Berchtold  
zu Sonnenburg, née Mozart.

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<sup>10</sup> BD: See note on No. 1225. Franz Xaver Niemtschek (1766-1849), grammar school professor and then university professor of philosophy and pedagogy in Prague. He was later a professor in Vienna, where he died.

<sup>11</sup> In the original text: "Lieder".

<sup>12</sup> BD: The publishers had obtained information on songs written after 1784 from Constanze.

<sup>13</sup> BD VI, p. 485, gives a list of 9 German songs composed before 1784, most of which Nannerl must have known.

<sup>14</sup> BD VI, p. 485-6, gives a list of 30 Italian songs composed before 1784, most of which Nannerl must have known.

<sup>15</sup> BD: KV 483, 484. (Masonic songs). [The original word "harmoniale" could then be plausibly understood as "harmonium".]