

1339. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO JOHANN ANTON ANDRÉ,² OFFENBACH

Vienna / Herr / Herr André, / Music Publisher / in / Offenbach / am Mayn.

My dear Herr *André*,

Vienna, 19th Dec., 1801.

Since I had heard that you would be coming here soon, [5] I asked you some time ago to bring the already published musical works with you for me so that I would have double pleasure all at once. But since your journey here is being delayed for so long, I am changing my request and wish to divide the double pleasure mentioned in order to enjoy it twice. You cannot be astonished, nor will you be, [10] that I am impatient to see the new, beautiful and authentic additions of the works which have such an inexpressible value for me. I therefore adjure you not to keep me waiting any longer, and for the future to set a fixed date yourself, perhaps once a quarter, to send me the pieces which have been published during that time. [15] You were so kind as to inform me that you have made a note of the pieces which I knew I still did not have: since that time, the number of those of which I know nothing will also have grown considerably, no doubt.

I informed you a long time ago that Mozart's music is greatly appreciated in Spain. The newspapers bear testimony to the same in France. [20] And from London Herr Häring,³ a merchant, reports the same. I hope that you may do much in these countries.

What is the current state, then, of the thematic catalogue for which I am so eager?

I am and remain, with great respect and devotion,

Your friend and servant

[25]

Constance Mozart

The scribe⁴ commends himself to your kind recollection.

Herr Meyer,⁵ singer and actor at the Theater auf der Wieden⁶ (Schikaneder's) is said to have the original of a Night Music⁷ or at least a copy of an unknown Night Music by Mozart.

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting. Georg Nikolaus Nissen (1761-1826), secretary to the Holstein Legation in Regensburg and then to the Danish Legation in Vienna. Met Constanze at the end of 1797, was either her landlord or cohabitant. Nissen advised Constanze in all business matters from 1798 onwards, especially with the publishers Breitkopf & Härtel and André. The letters, often formulated by him and signed by Constanze, reveal an experienced, if cautious, businessman. Cf. note No. 1224.

² BD: Johann Anton André (1775-1842), publisher. He was the third son of Johann André (1741-1799), composer, music director (from 1766), founded the music publishing business in Offenbach in 1784. It was thus in Johann Anton's first year as a publisher that the contract was concluded with Constanze (8th November, 1799) regarding the music in Mozart's estate. His full title in 1826 was "Music Director to the Grand Prince of Hessen and Court Councillor at the Princely Court in Isenburg" ["grossfürstlich hessischer Kapellmeister und fürstlich Isenburgischer Hofrath"].

³ BD: Not identified.

⁴ BD: Nissen.

⁵ BD: Probably Friedrich Sebastian Mayer (1773-1833), from December, 1797 the second husband of Josepha Weber, Constanze's sister. Franz de Paula Hofer had died in June, 1796.

⁶ = "In Vienna".

⁷ "Nachtmusik". BD: not identified.