

1820

1392. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART¹ TO FRANZ XAVER NIEMETSCHKE(?),² PRAGUE

EXCERPT:

Most honoured friend!

Vienna, on 6th May, 1820

You have always given my family and myself so many proofs of your sympathy and good will that I can confidently hope that the kindness you have shown also gives you pleasure. [5] I am therefore informing you that I gave a *concert*³ here last Tuesday, and I was so fortunate as to gain the general satisfaction of my fellow countrymen, who expressed themselves so clearly that I was called back twice. As soon as I appeared, they most touchingly made manifest to me their affection for my father, for I was received with such tumultuous applause [10] that I at once thought that I would not be allowed to start playing at all...

Is there perhaps still hope of receiving *Davide*⁴ before my departure?⁵...

¹ BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang (1791-1844), Mozart's youngest and second surviving son, virtuoso and composer. 1808-1811 private music teacher in Podkarnia, Galicia.

² BD: Franz Xaver Niemetschek (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. In 1799 he wrote to B & H, saying that he had had only a little contact with Mozart during the latter's stay in Prague, but his wife had seen him every day. In a letter of 21st March to the same addressees, he said that he could tell them "everything" about the two sons, of whom the elder had spent "more than 3" years under his supervision, while the younger had been entrusted to his wife while Constanze went on the concert tour in the north of Germany. Carl's recollection, according to a letter of 4th March, 1856, was that he had received board and tutoring from Niemetschek from 1792 until the end of 1797. Not only did he write a biography of Mozart published in Prague (Widtmann) in two impressions (1796/7 and 1808) and for which Constanze supplied a large quantity of notes and letter material, but he is also said to have played the major role in preparing Breitkopf & Härtel's complete edition of Mozart's works.

³ BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart gave a concert on 2nd May in the Imperial and Royal Small Ballroom [k.k. kleinen Redouten-Saale]; it was badly attended and the takings were small [cf. HummelS, pp. 104 ff.].

⁴ BD: *Davidde penitente* KV 469, published by Hoffmeister & Kühnel, Leipzig, 1805.

⁵ BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart was in Vienna between 15th April and 16th June, 1820. He was leaving to visit his brother in Milan.