

1415. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART TO ANTON JÄHNDL(?),¹ SALZBURG

EXCERPT:

Dear, good friend!

Lemberg,² on 26th Decbr., 1826

Before the end of the year, conscientious and orderly persons are wont to settle their bills etc. Now, since I believe that I may see myself as belonging, if not entirely, then at least half-and-half, to those persons, [5] I am now sitting here not only to give you, my dear, good friend, every good and loving wish for the New Year, but also to thank you most heartily, which should of course have been done a little sooner, for showing me such friendship. Father! no, yet – I can say, with complete conviction, “Friend, you have no idea of the words that my heart is speaking!”, [10] and I only hope that my dear Salzburg will at some time need, instead of a fortress commander, a royal music commander³ in the form of my modest self, so that I can tell you in person of the most heartfelt love by for you, sir, and that I will always rejoice in any opportunity to prove this to you. You will have learnt from my dear mother that, true to my intention, I arrived here on 28th *September*, [15] where I am now continuing life in my old rut again, i.e. giving lessons, occasionally keeping my fingers in shape a little and in particular, with great eagerness, training my *Cecilian* Choir, which is bringing me more and more pleasure. On the anniversary of my unforgettable father’s death, we appeared in public for the first time, [20] and, to be precise, with his *Requiem*.

I am looking forward longingly to a consignment of scores of church music by Michael Haydn and my father. . .

¹ BD: Anton Jähndl (1783-1861). After studies in Munich he occupied various church music posts in Salzburg. Aided Nissen with his biography, cf. literature in BD VI, p. 612.

² = Lviv, Ukraine. BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang had visited his mother in Salzburg in August. He participated in a concert at the end of August in memory of Georg Nikolaus Nissen, who had died on 24th March, 1826.

³ BD: The wish to be employed in Salzburg, which Constanze supported, was never fulfilled.