

1842

1473. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART¹ TO DISTRICT GOVERNMENT CHAIRMAN VON VOGEL(?),² SALZBURG

Highborn Sir!

[Vienna, 12th August, 1842]

First of all, accept my obligation and gratitude for all the friendly words you were so kind as to write in your honoured letter of the 5th of last month. For the sake of the grand celebrations,³ and ultimately for my own sake, [5] may my contribution meet your expectations in the measure which I certainly and most passionately wish! Allow me to note down here the following just as it comes into my mind so that I do not forget anything.

Accompanying this I am sending the scores, masses of adequate dimensions,⁴ so that one of them may be chosen freely, according to the committee's opinion, as being more in keeping with the occasion than the one chosen previously. [10] I received the one composed in 1776⁵ from the library of the monastic foundation of St. Peter in Salzburg.⁶ My copyist forgot the thorough-bass figures for the organ part, which are easy to add, if need be, since you now know the source.

Since such excellent singers as *Mdme. Hasselt-Barth*,⁷ Dietz⁸ and, I hear, also Staudigel⁹ [15] will be present, I have departed from my earlier idea and am now having the *Adagio* in my celebratory chorus performed by four solo singers, which is bound to have a ravishing effect with such splendid voices. In the absence of a female alto it will surely be possible to find a competent choirboy and in the meantime train him in the part; [20] this would in any case be advisable so that there is no possibility of embarrassment later.

Regarding the *f.p.*,¹⁰ the necessary organisation has been done, since the Royal *Clavier-maker* Streicher,¹¹ in return for reimbursement of the transport costs, will at the right time send to Salzburg one of the most excellent instruments to have left his workshop so far, [25] which can only be pleasing to Herr Thalberg,¹² who, as has been announced here, is also coming to Salzburg to add splendour to the celebration, because both the maker and myself will take pleasure in making this instrument available to him for the concert.

In my last letter I asked esteemed director von Hillebrandt¹³ to arrange two rooms, [30] or rather a room with two beds, for the couple of friends I am bringing with me – in

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. He adopted the practice of calling himself Wolfgang Amadeus (cf. signature).

² "Landrat". BD: Dr. jur. Johann Vogel, municipal and district councillor in Salzburg. Chairman of committee for the Mozart monument in Salzburg.

³ BD: The unveiling of the Mozart monument in Salzburg.

⁴ BD: Franz Xaver is sending copies of several scores of masses by his father, one of which was to be performed during the celebrations mentioned.

⁵ BD: Four masses were written in 1776: KV 262 (246a), KV 257, KV 258 and KV 259, all in C major. The *Missa brevis* KV 258 should probably not be considered. All we know of the celebrations is that a Mass in C major was performed, probably KV 262 (246a).

⁶ BD: Benedictine church and monastery in the centre of the old town.

⁷ BD: Anna (Marianne) Wilhelmine Hasselt, 1813-1881), known as a coloratura soprano, a pupil of Fischer, the first *Osmin*. Sang on various Italian stages, in Munich and in Vienna.

⁸ BD: Friedrich Die[t]z [not "Lutz"], sang in the Royal Opera in Munich 1837- 1878, previously in Mannheim.

⁹ BD: Joseph Staudigel (* 1807), bass from Vienna.

¹⁰ BD: = "fortepiano" [= pianoforte].

¹¹ BD: Johann Baptist Streicher (1761-1833), sole proprietor of the firm after the death of his father.

¹² BD: Sigismund Thalberg (1812-1871), illegitimate son of Count [Graf] Moritz Dietrichstein-Proskau-Leslie (cf. No.1465), keyboard virtuoso, seems not to have performed during the celebrations.

¹³ BD: Franz von Hillebrandt, Esquire (Edler von Hillebrandt) (1796-1871), founder and executive secretary of the "Dom-Musik-Verein und Mozarteum" [today "International Mozart Foundation", Salzburg]; cf. No. 1460/14.

return for payment, of course; may I perhaps ask you to remind him about it. I am leaving Vienna on the 26th and will reach you on the 28th.

[35] With every wish for your well-being, I assure you of the sincere respect of
Your most obedient
W. A. Mozart

Vienna, the 12th August, 1842

I have already indicated previously that I will play my father's D minor *concerto*.¹⁴

¹⁴ BD: KV 466. The concert on the evening of 4 September 1842 was his last public performance. He died on 29 July 1844. In his will he named his pupil Josephine Baroni-Cavalcabò, née Countess [Gräfin] Castiglioni, as his universal heir.