

*Monsieur*  
*mon très cher Père!*<sup>1</sup>

Mannheim, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec<sup>bre</sup>.  
1778

I have to beg your forgiveness regarding two matters; firstly, that I have not written to you for such a long time,<sup>2</sup> and secondly, that I have to be brief this time; – [5] the fact that I have been so long in replying to you is due to no other person except yourself – with your first letter<sup>3</sup> to Mannheim; – I had in truth never imagined that – yet silence, I will say nothing more about it; – for it is now all in the past; next Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, I will depart – it is not possible sooner, [10] for I took on pupils<sup>4</sup> because I thought I would stay here a couple of months – and in that regard of course I wanted to finish my 12 *lessons*;<sup>5</sup> – I assure you, you cannot conceivably imagine what good and true friends I have here – in time this will certainly become evident; – why must I be brief? – because I have my hands full; – I am now writing, for the sake of myself and Herr von Gemmingen,<sup>6</sup> [15] the first act of the *opera* in *declamatory* style<sup>7</sup> |: which I should have written :| needlessly; – I will take it with me and then fill it out at home;<sup>8</sup> – you see, that is how great my inclination is towards this kind of composition; – Herr von Gemmingen is the poet, it goes without saying, – and the *duodrama* is called *Semiramis*; – I have also received your last letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.<sup>bre</sup> safely; – [20] on the coming Wednesday I set off, and can you guess the opportunity that has arisen? – with the esteemed Imperial Prelate of Kaysersheim;<sup>9</sup> – when a good friend of mine spoke to him – he immediately knew me from my name alone; – and showed his great pleasure at having me as a travelling companion; he is |: although a cleric and prelate :| a very lovable man indeed; [25] so I am travelling via Kaysersheim and not Stuttgart – but that does not matter to me, for it is the best thing possible if one can spare one’s purse |: which is low anyway :| a little on the journey; – please be so good as to answer the following questions: how are the *players*<sup>10</sup> being received in Salzburg? – isn’t the girl who sings called Kaiser?<sup>11</sup> – [30] Does Herr *Feiner*<sup>12</sup> play the cor anglais<sup>13</sup> too? – Ah, if we only had *clarinetti* as well! – You would not believe what a splendid effect a symphony with flutes, *oboes* and *clarinets* has; – I will have much that is new to tell the Archbishop<sup>14</sup> during the first

<sup>1</sup> = “My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: The last letter (No. 0504) was dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1778. Neither now nor later does Mozart mention visiting the observatory in Mannheim, where he left an entry in the visitors’ book, reproduced in *Deutsch Dok.*, p. 161 and elsewhere.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0505.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Not known.

<sup>5</sup> BD: The customary number of lessons.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Otto, Freiherr von Gemmingen-Hornberg (1755-1836), diplomat and man of letters in Mannheim.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Mentioned in No. 0504/29 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: This was never done.

<sup>9</sup> “H: Reichspräläten von kaysersheim”. BD: Coelestin II Angelsprugger (1726-1783), born in Augsburg, prelate, elected abbot in 1771, vicar-general to the Cistercians in Upper Germany. He and Mozart drove from Mannheim to Kaisheim together in December, 1778. Cf. No. 0348/47, 55. “Kaysersheim” = Kaisheim near Donauwörth, cf. No. 0493/60, 97.

<sup>10</sup> BD: They had come from Munich, cf. Nos. 0482/88; 0485/83.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Margherete Kaiser, from 1776-1784 in Munich, where Mozart heard her; 1785 in Bratislava; 1790 in Vienna, cf. Nos. 0342/41, 55; 0422/57-58; 0494/73.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Answer in No. 0509/52.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

audience, and perhaps also make some suggestions; – Ah, our *music* could be much more beautiful and much better [35] if the Archbishop only wanted it; – the main reason why it isn't is probably that there are altogether too many concerts; – I have no objection to the chamber music, only to the bigger events; – *apropos*,<sup>15</sup> you do not mention it at all, but you will without doubt have received the chest?<sup>16</sup> – for otherwise Herr von *Grimm*<sup>17</sup> must take responsibility; – [40] there you will have found the aria which I wrote for *Mad<sup>selle</sup> Weber*;<sup>18</sup> you cannot imagine what *effect* the *aria*<sup>19</sup> has with the *instruments*; its appearance does not suggest this; – but it really must be sung by someone like the Weber girl; – do not give it to anybody, I beg you; – that would be the greatest injustice that one could commit, since it was written entirely for her and fits her like clothes on a body; – Now may life go very well for you indeed, dearest, best of fathers; – I embrace my dear sister with my whole heart – and would ask that all imaginable good wishes be conveyed to our dear friend *Bullinger*;<sup>20</sup> – to *Ceccarelli*,<sup>21</sup> Herr *Fiala*,<sup>22</sup> his wife,<sup>23</sup> and Herr *Feiner* my compliments, and to all those in Salzburg with a little knowledge of how things look outside Salzburg territory; – *Adieu*, I kiss your hands a thousand times and am, sir, your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

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<sup>15</sup> BD: (Here) = “by the way”.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Sent directly to Salzburg from Paris.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He was living with the Marquise d'Epinaÿ just mentioned. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris. After his mother's death, Mozart moved into accommodation in the house shared by Grimm and Madame d'Epinaÿ. Cf. lines 97; No. 0462/40.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Aloisia Weber (c. 1760-1839) was 17 when Mozart met first her. She was already singing at court in Mannheim. She became a focus of Mozart's romantic aspirations. The family moved to Munich in 1778. In 1779 she was given a leading position at the German Opera in Vienna [Deutsche Oper]. Cf. No. 0405/30. Her father is mentioned in line 24.

<sup>19</sup> (Here) = “By the way”.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund (“Sigerl”) Lodron. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

<sup>21</sup> BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 0505/102; 0552/3. Josepha, née Prohaska.