

0665. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de
S: A: R: / L'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg.

Mon très cher Père!

Vienne ce 23 de
1782 mars¹

[5] I greatly regret that I did not discover until yesterday that one of Leitgeb's² sons is travelling to Salzburg by post-coach, and I would consequently have had the finest of opportunities |: free of charge |: to send you a great deal. – But in less than 2 days it was no longer possible to have the *variations*³ copied. – I was therefore not able to give him anything more to take with him than the 2 *copies* of my sonatas. – [10] At the same time I am sending you the most recent piece⁴ – which I wrote for the *concerto in D* and which caused such a great stir here. – In doing so, however, I ask you to preserve it like a treasure – and not to give it to a single person, not even *Marchand*⁵ and his sister, to play. – I wrote it specially for myself – [15] and no person except my dear sister is allowed to play it as I do.⁶ – I am also taking the liberty of presenting you with a snuffbox and a couple of watch ribbons. – The snuffbox is entirely pleasing, and the painting represents an English story. – The watch ribbons are of no special value, yet they are currently the greatest fashion. – To my dear sister I send 2 bonnets in the latest Viennese fashion; – [20] both are the handiwork of my dear Konstanze!⁷ – she commends herself to you most obediently, and kisses your hands, sir, and embraces my sister in the deepest friendship, and asks forgiveness if the bonnets have not turned out to be the very best. – there was too little time. – I ask you to send the hatbox back with the next post-coach, for I borrowed it. [25] – but so that the poor, foolish little thing does not have to travel so alone, please be so good as to put the *rondeaux* |: after you have had it copied |: inside it, along with – |: if possible |: – the last scene for Countess Baumgarten⁸ – and sundry scores of my Masses. – *enfin*⁹ – whatever you find and believe could be of service to me. [30] – Now I must finish, apart from adding that yesterday afternoon, at half past 3, the Pope arrived here – a bright bit of news. But now for a sad one – that Frau von Auerhammer¹⁰ has finally tormented her poor, good husband to death. He departed this life yesterday evening at half past 6. – He was always ailing the whole time – and yet one would not have expected his death so soon. [35] – the end came in a moment; – God be gracious to his soul – he was a good, obliging man – Now I must close, for Leitgeb¹¹ is already waiting for the letter. – I truly

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg / Vienna, this 9th day of 1782 March / My very dear father!”

² BD: Probably Ernst, son of the Joseph Leutgeb who knew the Mozarts while a horn player in Salzburg and had now moved to Vienna.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0648/98: Probably KV 352 (374c), 359 (374a), 360 (374b); cf. Nos. 0610/31-32; 0649/7-8. These variations were not published (by Artaria & Co.) until 1786, along with KV 264 (315d), 353 (300f), 398 (416a), and 455.

⁴ BD: The new Rondo KV 382 for the Concerto in D KV 175;

⁵ BD: Heinrich Marchand, son of the Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozart's home for three years. His sister joined him after Leopold returned from Carnival in Munich.

⁶ BD: Mozart later sent it to Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten, cf. No. 0697/7.

⁷ BD: Constanze's first attempt to establish good relations with Nannerl.

⁸ “gräfin Baumgarten”. BD: 0537/7: Josepha, Countess [Gräfin] Paumgarten, née Lerchenfeld-Siessbach († c. 1818). Mozart wrote for her the scene KV 369, “Misera, dove son!” – “Ah! Non son'io che parlo”. She probably played a role in the commissioning of *Idomeneo*.

⁹ = “In short”.

¹⁰ BD: Wife of Johann Michael von Auernhammer (†1782); Josepha, his daughter, was a pupil of Mozart's with professional ambitions.

¹¹ BD: The son. See above.

commend the boy to you, my dear father – he¹² would like to find him a place in commerce or in book printing. – [40] Please help him a little on his way – I beg you. – My dear Konstanze has just come over to me – asking if she might be allowed to be so bold as to send my sister a little keepsake? – but I should nevertheless make excuses for her – that she is a poor girl, has nothing of the best to offer – and my sister should consider the good will in the work. The little cross [45] is of no great value, but is the height of fashion in Vienna. – But the little heart with arrow matches my sister's little heart with arrow more closely and will therefore be more to her liking. Now I wish you well in every way. I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally your¹³

¹² BD: The father. See above.

¹³ BD: Signature cut off.