

0683. MOZART TO MARTHA ELISABETH, BARONESS¹ VON WALDSTÄTTEN, VIENNA

*À / Madame / Madame La Baronne / de Waldstaetten née de / Schoeffer
/ à / Leopoldstatt / N: 360.*²

Most revered Baroness!

[Vienna, shortly before 4th August, 1782]

I received my *music* from *Mad.^{me} Weber's*³ maid, [5] and had to give a written attestation of this. – The maid imparted information to me which, even though I do not believe it could happen because it would mean a *prostitution* of the whole *family*, yet it is possible if one knows stupid *Mad.^{me} Weber*, and consequently does cause me concern. – *Sophie*⁴ burst out in tears – [10] and when the maid asked her the reason, she said: – tell Mozart secretly that he should make *Constanz*⁵ come home, for – my mother is *absolument*⁶ resolved to have the *police* fetch her! – Are the *police* then allowed to enter any house they want here? – and perhaps it is only a deceitful trap to get her back home again. – But if this could happen, [15] I know of no better remedy than to marry *Costance* tomorrow morning – today, if it can be done. – For I would not wish to expose my beloved to this shame – and this must not happen to my wife. – One more thing: – they have asked Thorwath⁷ to come today. – I ask Your Grace for your benevolent advice – and to give such poor creatures as ourselves a helping hand. – [20] I am always at home. – I kiss your hands 1000 times and am

your most loyal servant,

W: A: Mozart

In great haste; *Costance* knows nothing of this yet.

Has Herr von Thorwath called on Your Grace? –

[25] Is it necessary for both of us to call on him after lunch? –

¹ “Baronin”. Martha Elisabeth, Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten (1744-1811), a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten, a high official.

² = “To Madame, Baroness von Waldstaetten, née von Schoeffer, at Leopoldstatt No. 360”.

³ BD: Constanze's mother.

⁴ BD: Constanze's youngest sister.

⁵ BD: It appears that Constanze, as previously in November, 1781 (cf. No: 0651/124), was staying with Baroness von Waldstätten.

⁶ = “absolutely”.

⁷ BD: Constanze's guardian, cf. No. 0615/29. Thorwart had applied for a marriage license on the 29th July, 1782; it was quickly granted. Mozart and Constanze confessed and received communion on 2nd August; the marriage contract was drawn up on the 3rd with Franz X. Wenzel Gilowsky (brother of “Katherl”) as Mozart's witness; the wedding took place in St. Stephans’s Cathedral on the 4th.