

0261. LEOPOLD MOZART TO THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER, SALZBURG

To

A Most Reverend Cathedral Chapter etc. / governing during the Episcopal Vacancy¹ / of the High Archiepiscopal Foundation of Salzburg / my most humbly obedient petition / by Leopold Mozart High Princely² / *Deputy* Music Director / for solicited highest / Grace

[5] Reverend, nobly born Governors, [Salzburg, December, 1771]
My Lord *Cathedral* Provost, *Cathedral* Dean, *Senior*,
and the entire governing *Cathedral* Chapter
of the high Archiepiscopal Foundation of Salzburg,
Most gracious and most mighty, worthy Sirs!

[10] It will not have escaped the attention of Your most Reverend and Dignified *Excellencies* that Her Imperial and Royal Majesty³ had the most elevated graciousness to call my son to Milan to compose the theatrical *serenata*⁴ on the occasion of the wedding festivities, in accordance with which His *Excellency* Count Carl von *Firmian*⁵ most fittingly besought, in a letter to his brother, [15] the His *Excellency* the eminent Royal High Steward⁶ to His High Princely Grace⁷ of most blessed memory, the most gracious permission to be allowed to travel to Milan with my son. The most highly respected High Princely Grace did indeed grant us permission for the journey, yet subject to withholding of my salary, which consists anyway of nothing more than 28 florins 30 kreuzers,⁸ which were, however, [20] mistakenly paid out for a further one and a half months.

But after a letter was sent from His *Excellency* Count von *Sauerau*⁹ to the eminent Court Chancellor,¹⁰ in which the first mentioned *Excellency* believed he was giving the happy news of the universal applause and the honour which my son had gained, [25] His High Princely Grace immediately gave orders that my salary should be withheld.

Accordingly, this most obedient concern and petition¹¹ is presented to Your Most Reverend Noble *Excellencies*, my Gracious Lords, to grant most graciously the release of this payment of *pr: 59 florins*, consisting of only 2 months, namely *pro Octobre* and *Novembre*; to whom, as to all other High Graces, I and my household most humbly commend ourselves, [30] remaining

Your Most Reverend and Noble
Excellencies,

¹ BD: Prince-Archbishop Schratzenbach died the day after the Mozarts returned to Salzburg. In the meantime, the Cathedral Chapter assumed charge.

² "Hochf:".

³ "S^e: Kaysl: Königl: Mayestät"; the German phrase is masculine: "His Imperial Royal Majesty". BD: Empress Maria Theresia.

⁴ BD: Properly a "serenade": *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 0239/15.

⁵ "S^e: Hochgräfl. Excellenz H: Graf". BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Firmian, studied in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Leyden before becoming a diplomat. Governor general of Lombardy. A reliable supporter of Mozart in Italy; noted for his learning and intellect.

⁶ "Obersthofmeister". BD: Franz Lactanz, Graf Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward.

⁷ "S^e: hochfürst: Gnaden".

⁸ BD VII: This figure does not agree with line 28, where Leopold speaks of 59 florins for two months. This figure should in fact then be 57 florins.

⁹ "HofCanzler". BD: Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

¹⁰ BD: Joseph Gottfried, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Saurau (1720-1775). Cathedral canon, cathedral dean, privy councillor.

¹¹ BD: The petition was granted on 28th December, 1771.

My gracious Sirs' and Lords'
most humbly obedient
Leopold Mozart mp¹²
Deputy Music Director.

[ON THE ORIGINAL:

Court Chamber
Court Paymaster's Office, 1772. A.

*q. Ex Decr^o Ill:mi et Revd:mi Capit:
Reg:tis ded:º 28. Xbris 1771.*

Nº: 35

Court Chamber agrees, yet without
consequences for the future and for other Court
Musicians who travel.

Ferd. Truchses, Count von Zeil DD. mp
Carl Hannibal, Count von Dietrichstain mp

In *Consl Crae* of 7th January, 1772
Decision in decree]

¹² mp = manu propria = in his own hand.