

Manheim, 8th November
1777

My very dearest,

We have received your last letter¹ of the 29th, and also all the others, safely, but cannot possibly answer everything as precisely as should be, [5] for we simply have to steal time and usually write at night, so that we do not get to bed before one o'clock, get up late the next day, get ready just in time to eat at midday, going after the meal to Director Kanawich's,² and from there back home to eat at nine o'clock. Now the gala days³ are past. On the first day, there was a Mass at 11 o'clock, during which cannons and firecrackers were let off. [10] Wolfgang had to go to the Electress⁴ after the Mass, where the music supervisor, namely the esteemed Count Savioli,⁵ stated that she had after all remembered that he was here 14 years ago,⁶ but apparently no longer recognised him. After that there was a great banquet and in the evening a grand reception. On the second day the big German opera, titled |: Guntter [15] von Schwarzburg⁷ :|, was performed, which is very beautiful and has incomparable music; there is also a captivatingly beautiful ballet⁸ in it. On the third day there was a grand concert,⁹ at which Wolfgang played a concerto and, at the end before the final symphony, improvised and played a sonata.¹⁰ From the Elector¹¹ and the Electress, as from all who heard him, [20] he received exceptional applause. On Friday, the 4th day, there was gala theatre. We were there too, with Monsieur and Madame Kanawich. On the day of the concert, we ate at Herr Kanawich's, and today my son dined with him because he is going with him, straight after the meal, to the Elector's cufedreln¹². He was there yesterday as well [25] and the Lelectsr¹³ is always present during this. There are 4 of them, and two play clavier,¹⁴ tu Lectsr esvlo ufo cufedrln¹⁵ above everything, and ordered the supervisor to have Wolfgang brought to them. Wolfgang will play once more entirely for the Electress alone, for she has promised him this. Now we must wait until she gives the command. In the meantime, [30] I wish you many 1000 times good fortune on

¹ BD: Kanawich, Kanawich, Kanabich, Canabich, Cannabich used randomly. (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi, he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78.

² BD: No. 0359.

³ BD: To mark the Elector's name-day, cf. No. 0363/81.

⁴ "curfürstin". BD: Cf. No. 0363/81. Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Married Karl Theodor, her cousin, in 1742. The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her.

⁵ "herr graf Savioli". BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court. Mozart was presented to him by music director Holzbauer on 4th November, 1777 (cf. No. 0363/28-29).

⁶ BD: In 1763; more accurate than Mozart's "15 years" below and in No. 0363/31.

⁷ BD: By Ignaz Jakob Holzbauer (1711-1783), from 1753 senior music director [Oberkapellmeister] in Mannheim, composer. Stayed in Mannheim rather than moving to Munich with the Elector in 1778. Mozart was positively impressed by his singspiel *Günther von Schwarzburg* in 1777 (première 5 January 1777), cf. No. 0373/52; No. 0377/59 ff.

⁸ BD: By Étienne Lauchéry, royal ball director; music by Cannabich.

⁹ BD: It is reported that the poet Wieland was present; it took place in the *Rittersaal* of the Elector's palace.

¹⁰ BD: The works have not been identified.

¹¹ "von den Curfürsten" BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

¹² Family code: "children". BD: There were four children: three girls and a boy. The lessons were given in the Palais Heydeck opposite the Elector's palace.

¹³ Family code: "Elector".

¹⁴ BD: Count [Graf] Karl August and Countess [Komtesse] Karoline Luise (cf. No. 0363/88).

¹⁵ Family code: "the Elector loves his children".

your coming name-day,¹⁶ my dear husband, that you may experience, in constant health, everything that is beneficial to you in soul and body; above all, I would wish to be with you to congratulate you in person, but since it is not possible at this moment, we will drink a good Rhine wine |: of which we would wish from our hearts that you had one :| to your health [35] and always think about you, with the most pleasant hope, if God will, that we will see each other again and remain together. I send my greetings to Nannerl and ask whether her maiden cousin¹⁷ has already sent her the silk,¹⁸ for she promised me she would get it to her at once. The esteemed Baron Schaffman and Herr Dehl¹⁹ came to us yesterday morning and visited us, [40] today they set off on their way to Wezlar.

MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

This morning, at Herr Kanabich's, I wrote the rondeau²⁰ for the sonata for his Mad:^{selle} daughter;²¹ consequently, they did not let me away again. The Elector, she, and the whole court, is very satisfied with me. During the concert,²² every second time that I played, the Elector and she came right up beside me at the clavier. After the concert, Cannabich arranged for me to speak to the court. I kissed the Elector's hand. He said, It is now, I believe, [45] 15 years since he was last here. Yes, Your Highness, 15 years that I have been without this favour. – He plays incomparably. The Princess²³ said to me as I kissed her hand: *Monsieur, je vous assure, on ne peut pas [50] jouer mieux.*²⁴

Yesterday, I was with Cannabich at the place²⁵ of which Mama has already written. There I spoke to the Elector like a good friend. He is a very gracious and good ruler. He said to me, I have heard he has written an opera in Munich.²⁶ Yes, Your Highness.²⁷ I commend myself to Your Highness' supreme graciousness,²⁸ [55] my greatest wish would be to write an opera here. I ask that I should not be entirely forgotten. I can, praise and thanks be to God, also speak German,²⁹ and I grined. That could easily happen. He has a son, and turlldmhgutlro, the ledlot and the yshng Cshnt³⁰ play clavier. The Elector asked me entirely confidentially about everything concerning his cufedlen³¹. I spoke quite honestly, [60] yet without being contemptuous of the tlmcult³². Kanabich was also of my opinion. As he went, he expressed very courteous thanks to me. Today, after the meal,

¹⁶ BD: 15th November.

¹⁷ "Jungfer bas". BD: Mozart's cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in the letters as the "Bäsle" ["little cousin"], cf. No. 0358.

¹⁸ BD: A running topic in recent letters: cf. Nos. 0354/107 f.; 0365/19.

¹⁹ "herr Paron Schaffman und herr dehl". BD: Schaffmann; Döhl. Cf. No. 0359/120. Balthasar Schaffmann von Hämerles und Khanorowicz (* c. 1753). Attended the school for pages in Salzburg ("Edelknaben") 1764-1777. He died on the journey to Wetzlar. / Johann Baptist Döll, cf. No. 0552/5. He and Schaffmann visited Mozart and his mother in Mannheim on their journey to Wetzlar.

²⁰ BD: The last movement of KV 309 (284b), written for Cannabich's daughter; cf. No. 0363/14, 17.

²¹ BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received keyboard lessons from Mozart.

²² BD: On 6th November, 1777; cf. line 17.

²³ BD: Cf. No. 0363/88: Komtesse Karoline Luise (* 1768), one of four illegitimate children of Elector [Kurfürst] Karl Theodor by a ballet dancer.

²⁴ = "Monsieur, I assure you, it is not possible for anyone to play better".

²⁵ BD: Cf. note on line 24.

²⁶ BD: *La finta giardiniera* KV 196.

²⁷ "Eüer Durchleücht".

²⁸ "Eüer Durchl: zu höchstengnad".

²⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0362/129-130; 0365/23-24.

³⁰ Family code: "a son and three daughters, the eldest [= Karoline Luise] and the young Count".

³¹ Family code: "children".

³² Family code: "teacher".

straight away at two o'clock, I called with Cannabich on the traverse flautist Wendling.³³ There everything went off with the greatest courtesy. The daughter, who wmo sncl tul Lelctsr'r afotrloo,³⁴ plays clavier very nicely. Afterwards, I played. [65] I was in such a splendid mood today that I cannot describe it. I played entirely straight out of my head and three duets with violin which I had never seen in my life and whose composer I have never heard named. They were all so satisfied that I -- had to kiss the women. With the daughter I did not find this hard at all, for she is in no way a hound.³⁵ [70] After that, we went once again to the nmthrme cufdrln si tul Lelctsr³⁶. There I played truly with my whole heart. I played 3 times. Each time, it was at the request of the Elector himself. He sat down beside me every time, and remained motionless. I also had a certain professor³⁷ give me a theme for a fugue, and performed it. Now there follow the congratulations.

[75] Dearest Papa!

I cannot write poetically; I am not a poet. I cannot apportion the figures of speech so artistically that they create shadow and light; I am not a painter. I cannot even express my sentiments and thoughts in signs and in pantomime. I am not a dancer. But I can do this with tones; [80] I am a *musicus*.³⁸ Tomorrow, at Cannabich's, I will also play an entire congratulation for both your name-day and birthday³⁹ on the clavier. For today I can do nothing more, *Mon très cher Père*,⁴⁰ then to wish you, sir, with my whole heart, what I wish you every day, morning and evening: good health, a long life, and a happy heart. [85] I also hope that you will now feel less consternation⁴¹ than when I was still in Salzburg, for I must confess that I was the sole cause of it. They treated me badly, I did not deserve it. You, naturally, felt with me -- but too strongly. You see, that was also the main and most important reason why I rushed away from Salzburg as I did. I hope, too, that my wish is fulfilled. [90] Now I must finish with a musical congratulation. I wish you that you might live as many years as one needs so as not to be able to do anything new in music anymore. Now may life go very well for you indeed. I beg you very submissively to continue to love me a little and to be prepared, for the meantime, to put up with these poor good wishes until new drawers are made in my narrow and tiny understanding desk, where I can put the understanding which, as I purpose, I shall yet acquire. I kiss Papa's hands 1000 times, and remain until my death

Mon très cher Père

Mannheim, 8th Nov.^{bre}
[100] 1777

your most obedient son
wolfgang Amadé Mozart

³³ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786), both of whom met the Mozarts in 1763, cf. No. 0057/2-6. Their wives and daughters were also musicians and are mentioned several times in the correspondence up until 1790 (No. 1138/21-22). Both brothers came from Alsace and both died in Munich. For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368. He also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling.

³⁴ Family code: "was once the Elector's mistress". BD: Elisabeth Gusta (1752-1794), known as Gustl.

³⁵ BD: A similar phrase is in No. 0158/34 etc.

³⁶ Family code: "natural children of the Elector".

³⁷ BD: Not identified.

³⁸ A trained and knowledgeable musician as opposed to a folk or "natural" musician.

³⁹ BD: 14th November.

⁴⁰ = "My very dear father".

⁴¹ BD: 0374/89 ff.