

0410.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM

*A / Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de
Musique / à / Man[n]heim²*

Salz., 26th January³
1778

My dears!

[5] My last, very long letter⁴ was of the 19th – I did not write on the 22nd. I have received your letter⁵ of the 17th. Praise God, you are both well – as we are. *Padre Maestro Martini*⁶ has answered me,⁷ but he does not yet have the portrait in his hands, for it is packed along with wares, it is therefore moving very slowly with the carters; he asks that 1000 compliments be conveyed to Wolfgang. [10] According to his letter, he will write to Sgr. Raff⁸ that, on his behalf and in his name, he should tell the Elector⁹ everything imaginable about you and extol you according to your deserts. The intended march of the Austrian troops¹⁰ will affect, as far as is known, the fiscal region of Straubing. Since the death of the Margrave of Anspach,¹¹ the King in Prussia¹² has had the right of reversion [15] in Bareyt¹³ and Anspach, lands which lie close to the Bavarian Palatinate¹⁴ or Aychstätt.¹⁵ The Emperor¹⁶ would then occupy the whole expanse of land which lies beyond the Danube, from Ingollstatt¹⁷ – Regenspurg – Straubing until towards Passau, where Austrian territory begins anyway, for if otherwise some event occurred and the King in Prussia took possession of the two margraviates,¹⁸ [20] and it occurred to him to take

¹ This letter contains passages in “family code”; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, director of music in Mannheim”.

³ BD: Actually written on the 25th.

⁴ BD: No. 0406.

⁵ BD: No. 0405.

⁶ BD: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784), specialist in the theory and history of music. Taught Mozart during his stay in Bologna in preparation for admission to the *Accademia filarmonica*. Cf. No. 0171/20.

⁷ BD: No. 0409a, lost, answer to No. 0396. A portrait of Mozart as Knight of the Golden Spur had been sent as a present. Cf. *Deutsch Bild* No. 11. Cf. Nos. 0380/110 ff.; 0396/35 ff.

⁸ BD: Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich. Cf. No. 0120/54. Martini had not written directly to Elector [Kurfürst] Karl Theodor as requested by Leopold, but had given the task to Raaff. Cf. No. 0353/116 ff.

⁹ 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. Cf. No. 0363/30. When he succeeded the childless Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria in December, 1777, the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate were re-united for the first time since the Treaty of Pavia in 1329.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0401/41. It was feared that Austria might take parts of Bavaria by force. Karl Theodor, acting through his ambassador in Vienna, approved on 4th January, 1778, a contract with the Imperial government, in which the greater part of Lower Bavaria was ceded to Austria. It was ratified on 14th January, 1778. Austrian troops entered the relevant area on 16th January, 1778. Popular resistance led to the War of the Bavarian Succession, which ended on 13th May, 1779, after Prussian intervention.

¹¹ BD: After the death of Margrave Georg Friedrich von Ansbach-Bayreuth († 1603), two member of the Hohenzoller family came to Ansbach and Bayreuth. These lands passed to Prussia after the Treaty of Teschen in 1791.

¹² “König in Preussen”. BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

¹³ BD: Bayreuth.

¹⁴ BD: The Bavarian Palatinate, as opposed to the Rhine Palatinate.

¹⁵ BD: Eichstätt.

¹⁶ “Kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790.

¹⁷ BD: Ingolstadt.

¹⁸ BD: Bayreuth and Ansbach. According to inheritance contracts, these two margraviates were due to pass to Prussia. This increase of Prussian influence in southern Germany would have been unsettling for Austria. Maria Theresa offered to renounce the Bavarian districts claimed by Austria if Russia announced the two

away something here and there from the Imperial Princes,¹⁹ who are not in a fit condition anyway, then to prescribe laws to the Imperial Diet, who would be under his yoke, and to enlist soldiers everywhere, both secretly and publicly, and to spread unease among the neighbours – who would oppose him? – since he could furthermore press into Bohemia, precisely via the fiscal region of Straubing, [25] which borders Bohemia as far as Eger, and therefore spread unease in the Kingdom of Bohemia from above and below. It will soon be revealed if I have guessed rightly or not. Now Mama really does have grounds for jealousy: who do you think will stay with us when the opera singers²⁰ come? – Sg^{ra}. Rosa,²¹ her mother, and her sister. [30] They would not leave me in peace until I gave way, because it will not last very long, and Nannerl herself helped them. Frau Sulzer²² will give us the mattresses &c. In the new room will be Rosa, and in the bedroom her mother and sister will sleep. The rest of the company, including esteemed Baron²³ Virgilius Michl²⁴ as harpsichordist, are all going to the Hofwirt²⁵ inn. I and Nannerl will sleep in my room at the back [35] and when Mama comes, Nannerl will sleep in Wolfgang’s room, Nannerl has cleared everything out and is very busy with it – Why? – only to hear operas. I am writing this today, the 25th; in the evening, with the ordinary post from Munich, we will discover whether Count Seau²⁶ accepts the conditions, and whether they are coming; 10 performances have been granted, [40] the subscription list is 400 and something, and 70 florins have been collected. – Herr Janitsch,²⁷ the violinist, and a violoncellist from Wallerstein are here; they called on me straight away; they brought a letter to Count Khünburg²⁸ from Becke,²⁹ who has already gone ahead to Vienna. The Archbishop³⁰ did not hear them at court; If they wish, he said, they can give a concert,³¹ yet he did not in any way say [45] that he wanted to come to it. What else is to happen, and what I noticed from their talk – I will write about that next time. Becke must be very jealous of Wolfg., he is always seeking to make him as small as possible. Regarding those certain matters,³² the second letter³³ from me is already in Vienna, going in fact to Doctor Fauckin³⁴ with an

margraviates. Frederick II, on the other hand, suggested renouncing these margraviates in return for compensations in Saxony. Cf. also line 14.

¹⁹ “Reichfürsten”.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0403/30-31.

²¹ BD: Rosa Manservisi, who sang Sandrina in the première of *La finta giardiniera* in 1775, and her sister Teresina.

²² BD: Not identified.

²³ “H: Baron”. BD: Leopold’s invented humorous epithet.

²⁴ BD: An inn opposite the Lodron’s primogeniture palace in the Dreifaltigkeitsgasse.

²⁵ BD: Virgil Michl (dates unknown), son of the Munich violinist, organist and composer Ferdinand Michl (1723-1754). Virgil Michl’s *Coriolano* was performed in Munich in 1786.

²⁶ BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Graf Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. BD V, p. 385, quotes Müller to the effect that Seeau had all the takings from the Italian opera and the German theatre, as well as 9000 florins per year from the Elector, at his disposal.

²⁷ BD: Cf. line 41. Anton Janitsch (1753-1812), violinist; court musician in Wallerstein 1774-1779 and 1782-1785. Visited Salzburg in January, 1778, with the cellist Joseph Reicha; they reported on Mozart’s performance in Wallerstein (cf. Nos. 0379/65; 0422/67 ff.).

²⁸ “gr: Khünburg”. BD: Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], Privy Councillor [Geheimer Rat], from 1764 Chief Stablemaster [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

²⁹ BD: Notger Ignaz Franz von Beecke (1733-1803), keyboard player, later superintendent of music in Wallerstein, cf. No. 0111/33-34. The first publication of his compositions was in Paris. He took part in a keyboard “competition” with Mozart in Munich in winter 1774/75, cf. No. 0312/22.

³⁰ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9.

³¹ BD: Cf. lines 94-95.

³² BD: Cf. lines 52-53.

³³ BD: No. 0409.

complete, most vivid description [50] of our story; such people commonly advance such matters better than the great ones do, where one cannot be sure if they have already taken someone else's side. I have pressed both matters, concerning the <German opera³⁵> as well the <recommendation³⁶> for <Paris>. I will turn to further people with the next post. [55] Grimm³⁷ has not yet answered me, which saddens me a little. The sonatas for 4 hands³⁸ will both be sent to you, the variations³⁹ too. Misliwetcek⁴⁰ recently told me again that he is expecting the *scrittura*⁴¹ for you from Naples. But I see this as a ploy, for he says this only whenever he needs my services.⁴² I stand by my opinion, by the way, [60] that Wolfg. should leave nothing⁴³ in Mannheim. One should not be embarrassed, but feel completely free. I have experienced this often, and experience it still. I will see nothing more during my [lifetime]⁴⁴ of the engravings and sonatas⁴⁵ which I left in Amsterdam with Hummel,⁴⁶ in Zurich with Gesner,⁴⁷ in Winterthur with the town clerk,⁴⁸ in Bern with Seul,⁴⁹ and in Geneva with an engraver⁵⁰ [65] and also with Scherer⁵¹ in Lyon, although I have contacted them and written, yet not even received an answer. By losses one becomes judicious. Friends advise according to the frame of mind they are in: one must not always remain fixed on the first idea which one conceives, but develop further thoughts. Mama must indeed remain in readiness to travel: [70] a good opportunity to Augsp.⁵² or even Munich could come by chance. Oh, my dear Wolfgang! I must avoid thinking about the business at all, otherwise I am overcome with the heaviest sadness. Nannerl commends herself, kisses Mama's hands, we kiss both of you a million times and I am, as always, your Mzt

[75] Now Wolfg. will already have returned from Kirchheim.⁵³ Ms^e. Weber and her father⁵⁴ are simply experiencing the same⁵⁵ as others have done: *Propheta non acceptus in Patria!*⁵⁶

³⁴ BD: Dr. med. Xaver Fauken (1741-1794), cf. Nos. 0248/6-7; 0409.

³⁵ BD: Wolfgang had heard of plans to initiate a German language opera company in Vienna; Leopold was trying to muster support for Wolfgang as composer there. Cf. No. 0402/56 ff.

³⁶ BD: Leopold had been making efforts to get a letter of recommendation from Vienna for Queen Marie Antoinette in Paris, cf. No. 0399/45 ff.

³⁷ BD: Recently mentioned in No. 0408/26. 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. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

³⁸ BD: KV 358 (186c) and KV 381 (123a). Cf. No. 0405/46 ff.

³⁹ BD: KV 179 (189a).

⁴⁰ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39) and in Milan in 1770 and 1773 (cf. Nos. 0257/12; 0277/28; 0279/22; 0281/35-36). Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris, cf. No. 0347/2.

⁴¹ = "Contract to write an opera". BD: Mysliveček had already mentioned it in a letter of September, 1777 (cf. No. 0340/31 ff.).

⁴² BD: Services such as with obtaining fees for compositions delivered, cf. No. 0403/18 ff.

⁴³ BD: Wolfgang wanted to leave items in Mannheim (and thus have a reason to return?), Leopold was against it. Cf. Nos. 0402/27 ff.; 0406/100 ff.; 0408/19 ff.

⁴⁴ BD: The word "Leben" ["life", "lifetime"] is missing.

⁴⁵ BD: The so-called Delafosse engravings (Deutsch Bild No. 5) and the sonatas op. I (KV 6, 7), op. II (KV 8-9), op. III (KV 10-15) and op. IV (KV 26-27), which had been engraved before 1766.

⁴⁶ BD: Burkhard Hummel from Lower Franconia, music seller in The Hague, later took over his brother's music shop in Amsterdam. Cf. No. 0105/24.

⁴⁷ BD: Salomon Gessner, cf. No. 0112/27.

⁴⁸ BD: Wolfgang Dietrich Sulzer.

⁴⁹ BD: Johann Andreas Seul (Séel, Seel, Sell, Saüll) (c. 1719-1779), from Basel, a musician who had "sought refuge".

⁵⁰ BD: Probably "Msr. Huber", cf. No. 0111/61.

⁵¹ BD: Not identified.

⁵² Augsburg.

⁵³ BD: Kirchheimbolanden, cf. Nos. 0405/19 ff.; 0408/11 ff.

The 2 gentlemen⁵⁷ from Wallerstein absolutely wanted to hear Nannerl playing; it slipped out that all they were really interested in was to draw conclusions [80] about your manner of playing from her *gusto*⁵⁸, as they likewise pressed very strongly to hear something you had composed. She played your sonata⁵⁹ from Manheim quite splendidly and with full expression. They were quite amazed at her playing and the composition, said they had never heard anything by you, they said the ideas were entirely new and special, and Reicha, [85] the violoncellist, who handles the keyboard very well and before this had played very roundly in organ style on the clavier, repeatedly said, That is what I call thoroughly composed! They then accompanied for Nannerl your trio⁶⁰ for the clavier in B^b, and quite outstandingly.

From our hearts, I and Nannerl wish Wolfg. happiness on his birthday,⁶¹ [90] as do Herr Bullinger,⁶² the Gilowskys' Catherl⁶³ and the whole Airgun Company,⁶⁴ who all commend themselves. Now the gentlemen Janitsch and Reicha are also on the list of marksmen, for they also joined in the shooting. Katterl⁶⁵ won the first prize, I won 7 kreuzers⁶⁶ for Mama. On Tuesday, the 27th, the concert⁶⁷ will take place at the town hall. [95] Now 3 manifestoes⁶⁸ have been published, one by the Emperor, in which he declares all Bavarian fiefs, such as, for example, the town of Mindelheim &c., to have reverted to him, and 2 by the Empress,⁶⁹ in which she shows which parts of Bavaria devolve to her by virtue of old contracts; perhaps all 3 will now be printed in newspapers. [100] I have just this very moment learnt that our cathedral canon, Count Daun,⁷⁰ apparently said that the Elector will now stay in Munich, and will arrange for the court music to go there after Easter. The first point is easy to believe, because he has to examine the government there himself and then set it in better order and deliver it from the hands of the birds of prey, which he could not entrust to anyone there. The second could be a natural

⁵⁴ BD: Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779): Initially a high administrative official, then employed at the court in Mannheim as a bass, prompter and music copyist. Moved to Munich with the court in 1778, then to Vienna when Aloisia was engaged there as a singer in 1779. He died shortly afterwards on 23rd October, 1779. His daughter Aloisia (c. 1760-1839) was 17 when Mozart met first her. In 1778 employed at the "German Theatre" in Munich. In 1779 she was given a leading position at the German Opera in Vienna [Deutsche Oper]. Cf. No. 0405/29, 30.

⁵⁵ BD: Leopold is referring to No. 0405/ 33 ff.

⁵⁶ = "A prophet is not accepted in his native land."

⁵⁷ BD: Cf. line 41. Anton Janitsch and Joseph Reicha.

⁵⁸ = "Taste, style".

⁵⁹ BD: The clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart. Cf. No. 0363/13. Her father was (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798), who joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich.

⁶⁰ BD: KV 254.

⁶¹ BD: 27th January.

⁶² 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. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

⁶³ BD: "Catherl", "Katterl": Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of court surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

⁶⁴ BD: The shooting of airguns at decorated targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the "marksmen's company" or club. A member would donate the first prize and pay for everything consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

⁶⁵ BD: "Catherl", "Katterl": Katharina Gilowsky, as in line 91.

⁶⁶ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

⁶⁷ BD: With Janitsch and Reicha.

⁶⁸ BD: As anticipated in No. 0406/200.

⁶⁹ BD: Maria Theresia (1717-1780), Holy Roman Empress [Kaiserin], mother of Joseph II.

⁷⁰ BD: Karl Joseph, Count [Graf] Daun (* 1728), member of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, cf. No. 0032/9.

consequence of the first. How do you like this letter? -- have I not searched out every little white space? -- *Addio!*