

0478. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, PARIS

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Le Chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart
maître de / musique / à / Paris / chez Mr: Le Baron de / Grimm etc:
Rue de la / chaussée d'Antin / près le Boulevard.*¹

Salzb., 27th Aug.,
1778.

[5] My dear son!

My letter² of the 13th inst. will have reached you. In it I promised to reply soon to those two letters of yours³ which arrived at the same time. The first,⁴ already written on the 18th and 20th, tells me a great deal of the beginning and growth of the valuable friendship with Herr *Raff*.⁵ [10] My wish is that his efforts on your behalf, on which you place much hope, may have their good effect; I recall, however, that you and your mother wrote to me once from Mannheim saying that *Msr. Raff* was a very honest, good, old, sincere man, but that he could neither make or break anything⁶ and, to tell the truth, that did indeed seem incredible to me, [15] for such a man has surely gained a reputation, even if he now can no longer sing as he did because he is old. I have already written⁷ to *Pad.^{re} Martini*.⁸ Now let us wait and watch everything. What you wrote to me from the newspapers there⁹ were barefaced lies, and indeed in every part. The *Msr. Hopfgarten*¹⁰ whom we know was not a soldier, but a councillor¹¹ in service as a civilian. [20] On what you write at the end¹² about the valet and the 25 strokes across his back because he has not married Catherl,¹³ I am not sure he shouldn't get a million across his back if he takes her in matrimony. Slowly but surely, my son, one must get to know people. You cannot imagine a worse housekeeper, a more light-headed person than this Catherl: she goes around all day making visits and sponging, [25] she flees from work as from an infectious illness. She puts on a new dress, a bonnet, the pair of shoes etc. and wears it until it is torn or dirty. She thus always goes around in one covering, by fair or foul weather, and on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary¹⁴ she was in the cathedral with the same dirty bonnet and the whole of the customary ensemble [30] she was running around in the day before. She is an honest girl, but turns up everywhere as the clown and is like a poodle¹⁵ with all the merchants' servants, students etc., and her husband will never be able to give her enough money because she cannot

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Knight, Music Director in Paris, c/o Baron von Grimm etc., Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, near the Boulevard".

² BD: No. 0476.

³ BD: Nos. 0466; 0471.

⁴ BD: No. 0466.

⁵ 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.

⁶ BD: See Frau Mozart's letter No. 0373/5-6.

⁷ BD: No. 0477.

⁸ 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.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0466/172 ff.

¹⁰ BD: The name is mentioned in Nos. 0050/59; 0466/188 ff.

¹¹ "Rath".

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0466/213 ff.

¹³ BD: 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.

¹⁴ BD: 15th August.

¹⁵ BD: Poodles were reputedly fixated on men.

manage it etc., and how can he marry her? The Cardinal in Passau¹⁶ will soon be 80; if he dies, his place in service¹⁷ dies with him, [35] and how long can it last with the Obersthofmeister?¹⁸ What is he then? And what skills does he have to enable him to take charge in some other position of service? – – The personal valet, now Seneschal,¹⁹ Adam, wished to seek the acquaintance of your sister. He once rushed our defences; from that time, however, we were never at home again, and finally |; since he frequently came out with expressions of love towards our serving girl Trese²⁰ :| [40] I instructed her to say that it would be an honour to see him and his wife in our house once he was married, but as long as he was a widower I must forbid him to visit us, since my daughter does not wish to be material for town gossip. Then he turned his attentions to Catherl, made declarations of love in front of her and her father.²¹ She is proud of it, makes jokes about it, and he always goes round there. Is that sensible? She also imagined something to herself about Sigmund Hafner,²² I wish her success in it, for she needs a match of this kind, where there is enough money. It is at least true that Herr Hafner has been re-thinking his love story²³ more earnestly, has reflected on the matter, has yielded to reason and has eased off greatly from this acquaintanceship. [50] Your second letter,²⁴ of the 31st July, tells me the circumstances of the illness of your excellent, blessed mother. The fact that your mother was the first person that you have had to see die²⁵ was a special divine dispensation and an observation I made to everybody the first moment after receiving the news. My dear son! Fate gave occasion for a quite different observation. [55] Your dear mother went willingly from Salzb. with you, voiced no objections. She was due to return home from Manheim. It was only after making the acquaintance of, and travelling with, the Webers²⁶ that you had serious misgivings²⁷ – and decided not to travel with Wendling.²⁸ – The letter was written so late that, before my reply could arrive, Wendling was already gone. [60] I had worked it all out precisely: otherwise you would not have stayed behind. So I had to write that you should hasten to Paris as soon as possible because the best part of the season was passing. Your dear mother could see the reason in all this, but she wanted to save me any

¹⁶ BD: Leopold III Ernst, Graf Firmian (1708-1783), a member of the influential Firmian family mentioned so often in the letters and prominent at the Salzburg court. Leopold and Wolfgang took part in the three days of celebration or his elevation to the cardinalship in Milan in 1772. Cf. Nos. 0271/17-20; 0272/26 ff.

¹⁷ BD: Referring to the valet mentioned in line 19/20: he was obviously in the service of the Bishop of Passau.

¹⁸ “Obersthofmeister”. BD: Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister] Franz Lactanz, Count [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 [Obersthofmeister].

¹⁹ “Leibcammerdiener ... Truchsess”. BD: Johann Joseph Adam.

²⁰ BD: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household in Salzburg over many years.

²¹ BD: Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky von Urazowa (1716-1799), ante-chamber servant and court barber/surgeon. In No. 0705 called the “Barber of Salzburg”. Cf. No. 0034/17.

²² BD: Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787), son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant. Cf. No. 0359/121.

²³ BD: Already the subject of comment in the letters from Salzburg: cf. Nos. 0448/92 ff.; 0451/8 ff.

²⁴ BD: No. 0471

²⁵ BD: Wolfgang states this in No. 0471/7-9.

²⁶ BD: Family of Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779): after two years studying law, became a high administrative official [Amtmann in Zell zu Wiesental und Stetten]. Married Maria Caecilia Stamm (1727-1793), daughter of Otto Stamm, secretary to the Palatine government; they had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son. Forced to leave his position in 1763, was then employed at the court in Mannheim as a bass, prompter and music copyist. His daughter Aloisia was a particularly gifted singer and became a focus for Mozart’s romantic aspirations.

²⁷ BD: Leopold recognises the real reasons for Mozart’s change of plan.

²⁸ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786). 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. Wolfgang’s initial plan for travelling to Paris involve sharing a coach with Wendling and Ramm (Ramm: cf. line 68).

consternation and wrote this to me at the end of the letter:²⁹ My dear husband, you will have seen from this letter that when Wolfgang [65] makes a new acquaintance he is immediately ready to give his goods and his blood for such people. It is true that she sings incomparably, but one must never neglect one's own interest. I was never really happy with the company of Wendling and Rahm³⁰, but I was not allowed to make any objection, and I was never believed. As soon as he became acquainted with the Webers, [70] however, he immediately changed his mind; in a word, he prefers to be with other people rather than with me. I remonstrate with him about one thing or another which do not please me, [150] and he is not willing to accept this: you will therefore think over for yourself what is to be done. I do not find the journey to Paris with Wendling at all advisable. I would prefer to accompany him later myself. Perhaps you will yet receive an answer from Herr von Grimm.³¹ [75] This, my dear son, is the only thing that your blessed dear mother wrote to me in confidence about you, as an appendix, during the whole time of your absence and, although she could have written it far more clearly and could have given the business its proper name, she loved me and you too much to make a clearer statement. [80] If your mother had come back to Salzb. from Mannheim, she would not have died;³² since, however, Divine Providence had determined that the hour of your mother's death should be on 3rd July, she had to set off with you from Salzb. and be kept from her return journey by your new acquaintanceship.³³ The event of her death, the whole course of the matter and the whole context [85] shows me that the interlocking chain of Fate and Divine Providence does not allow itself to be torn open, otherwise you would have let me know sooner about your decision not to choose to travel with Wendling and your misgivings, but if I, trusting in your sense and virtue, had set your mind at rest, you would have set off, arrived in Paris at the right time, [90] you would have furthered your interests and made more acquaintances, and my poor wife would be in Salzburg. The plans of man must be sent reeling, just as the most skilful *medicus* goes blind and his treatment fails, he is no longer able to recognise the illness, if Providence will have it so. Now, however, may God grant that what has happened until now [95] may not bring in its wake far worse consequences yet for us all. There is still time to prevent it. But if you continue to build castles in the air and to fill up your head only with speculations about future and still far distant prospects, then you neglect what is urgently necessary at present to make sure you attain to your prospects. [100] Your head is full of things which make you unfit for everything that is in the present; you will not make one step of progress, for you need something to live on now, and according to your thoughts, which you will only reveal to me when the time is ripe,³⁴ you need to have a good, solidly lucrative position in service – but since the like, with all the conditions you demand, is not as easy to get as you think, [105] and since my circumstances and the debts still outstanding are known to you, you will hopefully at last draw on sound reason to recognise, now that you find yourself in Paris and a good season for earning something there is approaching,³⁵ that your thoughts and work must be fixed

²⁹ BD: Cf. postscript to No. 0416, added “secretly” by Frau Mozart. Leopold now communicates its content to Wolfgang, although he omits two details.

³⁰ BD: Friedrich Ramm (1744 – after 1808), oboist, joined the court music in Mannheim aged 14, was in Paris with Mozart, went to Munich with the court in 1778. Mozart met him in Mannheim in 1777 and wrote the oboe quartet KV 370 (368b) for him in 1781. Cf. No. 0363/18.

³¹ BD: 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.

³² BD: A hefty censure.

³³ BD: Cf. note on line 57.

³⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0471/117.

³⁵ BD: Cf. lines 129-130

purely pushing your way to the front, making yourself known and gaining a reputation, and thus money, for yourself. [110] Concerning Manheim, you have already done everything that is to be done – you must therefore wait for the outcome, and all speculation is of no help there now. Whether or not something happens there, you cannot leave Paris now anyway; but if nothing happens – you must then stay in Paris to earn your keep – where else will you go? – It is good that, whatever happens, Count Sückingen³⁶ has offered to get you a place in Maynz³⁷ [115] – but one must not imagine that anything is certain, for that only means, and must be understood as such, that he will make efforts to get a place for you. Whether he manages to bring it about is another question. In Maynz there is an old music director, Herr Schmid,³⁸ who no longer does anything. Kreyser³⁹ came to Maynz at exactly the right time when the concertmaster Jacobi⁴⁰ died. [120] They liked his *symphonies*, so easy to listen to, so he became concertmaster at once. Now he is working to be competent enough to be music director; he is popular with everyone, and will seek this position come time.

I cannot forgive both of you for not making a journey to Maynz⁴¹ during such a long stay in Manheim. Take an unbiased look at it, [125] and you will have to admit that the two of you did little that I had advised and directed. A journey to Maynz would have been of greater advantage to you than your fatal journey to KirchheimPolland,⁴² Maynz is clearly a court where there would be some prospects, and where we have many acquaintances among the nobility and other friends. So you see that at present [130] all your speculations must be directed exclusively to supporting yourself well in Paris. As for everything else concerning Manheim, Maynz or Salzburg, one must wait without attaching all one's thoughts to purely empty dreams which are of no help except to make oneself unfit for the present, urgently necessary tasks; what happens to us will anyway only be what eternal Providence has ordained for us, [135] if we will only take up the right means and not weaken ourselves for present tasks by constant reflection on things which at this moment are necessarily still distant. In Manheim, or now rather in Munich |: where the court⁴³ should arrive at the end of this month |: there will hardly be anything to do, unless they were considering acquiring a composer for the German opera, [140] and if Raff and Cannabich⁴⁴ were to suggest you. Wendling is your friend, but I am not sure that your acquaintanceship with the Webers may not have cost you the favour of the Wendling household.⁴⁵ One female singer hates the

³⁶ “Graf Sückingen”. BD: Karl Heinrich Joseph, Count [Graf] Sickingen zu Sickingen, Palatine Ambassador (1777-1791) and patron of music in Paris. Cf. Nos. 0439/14; 0462/117-118.

³⁷ Mainz, a major town after Mannheim in the Rhineland Palatinate.

³⁸ BD: Johann Michael Schmid (cf. No. 0020/33), directed music at court in Mainz 1756-1787; his successor was Vincenzo Richini (1756-1812). Cf. Nos. 0020/33; 0478/118.

³⁹ BD: Georg Anton Kreusser (1743-1810), violinist, player of viola and double bass, pupil of his brother. Met Leopold and Wolfgang in Bologna (cf. No. 0218/40 ff.). From 1773 in Mainz, after 1774 as music director. Leopold reminded the travelling Wolfgang about him in letters from Salzburg in 1777, cf. Nos. 0375/28 ff.; 0478/118 ff. Numerous symphonies by him are known.

⁴⁰ BD: Gottfried Dominikus Jacobi, violinist, concertmaster, mentioned in Nannerl's travel diary, cf. No. 0061/21.

⁴¹ BD: Leopold had recommended the journey to Mainz several times, the first time being in No. 0369/100.

⁴² Kirchheimbolanden, residents of the Princess of Nassau-Weilburg; cf. No. 0416/5 ff. BD: “fatal” probably because it involved Fridolin and Aloisia Weber and was a financial failure.

⁴³ 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. He decided to make Munich in Bavaria the main centre of his court. Cf. No. 0363/30.

⁴⁴ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). 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. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. His daughter was Rosa Schulz, née Cannabich, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her.

⁴⁵ BD: Leopold suspicion was certainly accurate.

other. The remuneration in Maynz is not impressive, and Maynz has the same advantage as Salzburg in that it does not die out with the death of the Prince. [145] – In Manheim it will last only as long as the Elector lives.⁴⁶ Salzburg has the advantage⁴⁷ over Maynz |: if one is paid properly |: especially because the church music is more magnificent – and it is located nearer to Italy. I have already written to you saying that they wish to see you here again, and they hovered around me, without my giving anything away, [150] until finally, after the death of Lolli,⁴⁸ I had to tell the Countess⁴⁹ that I had handed in a petition⁵⁰ to the Archbishop⁵¹ in which, however, I said nothing other than that after so many years of irreproachably performed service I commend myself to Your Grace etc. Now the talk finally turned to you – and I said everything that was necessary straight out and just as I had told Count Starmberg.⁵² [155] Finally she asked me if you might come if the Archbishop gave me Lolli's salary and gave you Adlgasser's,⁵³ which amounts, as I had already calculated in advance, to a total of 1000 florins per annum, to which I could make no reply other than that I had no doubt that you would accept this for my sake, if it should happen, [160] since she furthermore added that there was not the least doubt that the Archbishop would let you travel to Italy every two years since he himself always maintains that one must hear something else from time to time, and that he would supply you with good letters of recommendation. If this were to happen, I could make a firm calculation that we would have at least 115 florins every month and more than 120 florins per month as things now stand [165] without what I earn from the sales of my violin school,⁵⁴ which, calculating pessimistically, comes to 50 florins annually, all without what your sister earns for herself, now certainly 10 florins per month, enough for her clothes, since she teaches the Countess's⁵⁵ two young Fräuleins,⁵⁶ which she in fact does daily, while I have the 2 elder ones.⁵⁷ [170] Now, this is not counting what you might earn for yourself alone, for, although one can count on nothing here, you do of course know that you have earned something from time to time, and in this way we would be better placed than anywhere else, where it is twice as expensive for us, and if one does not have to watch the money so carefully, one can certainly afford entertainments for oneself. [175] But the main point is that I am not counting on this whole business because I know what difficulties such a

⁴⁶ "Fürsten". BD: Karl Theodor. Cf. line 137. He had no legitimate children, hence the greater uncertainty of employment. Cf. No. 0480/32 ff.

⁴⁷ BD: Leopold makes Salzburg look as attractive as possible to Wolfgang and connects it to Wolfgang's wish to travel in Italy again.

⁴⁸ BD: Giuseppe Francesco Lolli (1701-1778), from Bologna, initially employed as a tenor, mentioned as such in the *Salzburger Hofkalender* of 1741. 1752-1763 deputy music director in Salzburg; from 1763 music director. Composed some oratorios, masses and vesper psalms as well as music for a stage play.

⁴⁹ "Gräfin". BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg. Cf. No. 0457/67.

⁵⁰ BD: No. 0481.

⁵¹ "Erzb.". 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. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁵² "Gr: Starmberg". BD: Franz Joseph, Count [Graf] Starhemberg (1748-1819), cathedral canon in Salzburg.

⁵³ BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings. Cf. No. 0041/17. He died on 22nd December, 1777.

⁵⁴ BD: Leopold Mozart's *Versuch einer gründlichen Violinschule* (1756), of which there were three impressions.

⁵⁵ "Gräfin". BD: Maria Antonia, née Komtesse Arco (1738-1780), wife of hereditary marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779), cf. No. 0362/87. For her name-days (13th June) in 1776 and 1777, Mozart composed the divertimenti KV 247 and KV 287 (271b, KV⁶: 271 H).

⁵⁶ BD: The two youngest daughters of Maria Antonia.

⁵⁷ BD: In February, 1776, wrote for Countess [Gräfin] Lodron and her two elder daughters, Aloisia and Giuseppina, the concerto for three claviers KV 242. These two daughters were Leopold Mozart's pupils.

decision represents for the Prince.⁵⁸ You should not doubt that this is entirely what the Countess⁵⁹ most earnestly wishes, and it is true that old Arco,⁶⁰ Count Starmberg and the Bishop of Königsgratz⁶¹ wish to bring it about in a good manner – [180] There are reasons for this, however, as with all things, and, as I am constantly telling you, the Countess,⁶² as is old Arco, is afraid that I too may leave. They have no-one as a keyboard teacher, I have the reputation that I teach well, and the proof is there. They do not know whom they will get, and if it will be another such person, and if someone should come from Vienna, [185] is he likely to give 12 lessons for 4 florins or a ducat,⁶³ when one is paid 2 or 3 ducats⁶⁴ elsewhere? – – That is a source of embarrassment to them all. But, as I have already said, I am not counting on anything because I know the Archbishop. Although one can be sure that in his heart he wishes to have you, he is nevertheless unable to come to a decision, especially if it costs him anything. [190] The matter you always have in your thoughts would quite certainly be advanced by this, for a journey to Italy or favourable circumstances here could do a great deal. You write time and again about the sorry circumstances of the Weber family. But tell me how, with sound reasoning, did you manage to get the idea into your head that you could be the person in a position to make these peoples' fortune? Gradually you are beginning to see |: I hope :| how much money a single person needs to maintain himself reputably. You are now in a situation – and you have been, as 2 persons with your blessed mother, since 23rd Sept.⁶⁵ last year – [200] in which I, in order to equip the two of you for the journey and provide you with travelling money, had to support you with 300 florins and then once again, in Manheim, with 200 florins. That, now, makes 500 florins of debts that I have incurred for this reason alone. Now you are alone – should you not now be providing laboriously for your daily needs? and is that alone enough? – – must you not be seeking to save some money as a reserve?⁶⁶ Let me now suppose, which God forbid, that you become ill and have no money saved [205] – what would you do? – – would you not be left lying there in misery? Would you not have to live from the graciousness and compassion of kind-hearted people? And where are these kind-hearted people? – – if one has enough to do with a healthy body to provide for oneself, a single person, and to make friends for oneself, and to implement one's plans, [210] what kind of misery is waiting for a person who is prevented from earning money and pursuing his tasks by illness or even by some other trifling ailment? If he does not then have a reserve of money in the bag, he is abandoned at that very moment by everybody – the few friends withdraw little by little – [215] and the friend who possibly remains is in such circumstances that he can only attest his friendship in words, but can in fact do nothing because he is poor himself. Do you not have the sad example of this in your blessed mother and in a hundred people living around you: healthy today and sick tomorrow. [220] Think back over whether, in the time that you have been away from me, you have had a single friend who had the power to work something out for you? – – you even wrote to me yourself that you had very many good friends, but none in a position to set anything up for you properly. Of such friends, who do nothing except make wishes and suggestions, there

⁵⁸ “Dem Fürsten”. BD: = Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, cf. line 150.

⁵⁹ “Gräfin”. BD: = Countess Lodron, cf. line 169.

⁶⁰ BD: Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Firmian (1705-1792), 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 (Obersthofmeister). Cf. No. 0004/86.

⁶¹ BD: Joseph Adam Nepomuk Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1733-1802), after being cathedral canon and suffragan Bishop of Passau was 1776-1780 Bishop of Königgrätz, 1780-1802 Bishop of Seckau.

⁶² “Gräfin”. BD: Countess Lodron, cf. line 169.

⁶³ BD: = 4.5 florins.

⁶⁴ BD: = 9 or 13.5 florins.

⁶⁵ BD: 23rd September, 1777, when Wolfgang and his mother left Salzburg.

⁶⁶ BD: Advice repeated in No. 0482/18.

are enough. [225] If one takes every such wish and suggestion as being in order, one is deceived. I beg you, therefore, have pity on yourself and on your poor father: provide the finances you need at the moment, do not put me at risk of being mocked and laughed at here. One can make such efforts to help *Md^{ssle}*: Weber⁶⁷ as are possible, and towards everything that you will want when the time comes, [230] but do our powers then extend so far as to help out a family consisting of 6 children? Who can do this? – me? – you? – when so far we have not been able to help ourselves. How can you help others until you have helped yourself? You write⁶⁸: – Dearest father! I commend them to you with my whole heart – if only they had 1000 florins for some years to enjoy in the meantime! [235] Dearest son! Must I not be anxious, when I read this, about the soundness of your mind? – – For God’s sake, you want me to help them to get 1000 florins over some years! – If I could do this, I would first of all help you and myself and your dear sister, who is already 27 years old and does not know who shall provide for her, and I am already old. Where, then, are the courts, or where is there now one court, [240] which pays a female singer 1000 florins? – in Munich they are paid 5–6–700 florins at most⁶⁹ – and then you imagine to yourself that they will pay a young person, whom they may consider a beginner, 1000 florins right away? – – if you muse day and night and imagine it to be already half achieved or quite easy to do, you will not see it happen, especially since, as you always hear and experience tells you, [245] one must make a name for oneself beforehand or, so to speak, make oneself famous before one can take major steps towards making one’s fortune in the world. If you muse the whole day and imagine a hundred thousand things to yourself as being easy, not only will the matter not come to pass unless you do much more to make your present circumstances profitable and advantageous for yourself; [250] instead, you will drift through your days ineffectually, remaining unknown and poor, and not help anybody. All you have to do is to write to *Canabich* and *Raff* asking them to suggest you to the Elector⁷⁰ and *Seau* as a composer for the German operas. [255] Count Sickingen⁷¹ should write the same to *Baron Gemmingen*⁷² or other correspondents, you should also write a letter in French to the Imperial Ambassador, Baron Lehrbach,⁷³ for the same reason. In short! You must write to all persons who are allowed to present a matter to the Elector at any time, for in future there will always be German *operas* performed in Munich. On St. *Charles’* Day, 4th *November*, [260] the *opera* by *Wieland* and *Schweitzer*⁷⁴ will be performed, and probably continued throughout Carnival. From here, I will also make my approaches to *Count Seau*, even if you would only get 600 florins now. One must establish a reputation. When did *Gluck*⁷⁵ – when did *Piccini*⁷⁶ – when did all these people come to the forefront? –

⁶⁷ BD: Aloisia Weber (c. 1760-1839) was 17 when Mozart met first her. She was already singing at court in Mannheim. The family moved to Munich in 1778. In 1779 she was given a leading position at the German Opera in Vienna [Deutsche Oper]. Cf. No. 0405/30.

⁶⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0471/251.

⁶⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0504/73: Aloisia did in fact receive 1000 florins in Munich.

⁷⁰ BD: Karl Theodor, cf. line 145.

⁷¹ “gr. Sickingen”. BD: Cf. line 114.

⁷² BD: Otto, Baron [Freiherr] von Gemmingen-Hornberg (1755-1836), diplomat and man of letters in Mannheim. Author of the melodrama *Semiramis*, partially set by Mozart in 1771 (KV Anh. 11 /311e). Later, in Vienna, he was “master of the stool” at Mozart’s admission to the lodge “Zur Wohltätigkeit” [“At the sign of Charity”] in 1784.

⁷³ BD: Franz Sigmund Adalbert, Baron [Freiherr] von und zu Lehrbach, from 1777 Imperial Ambassador in Munich. Cf. No. 0403/13 ff.

⁷⁴ BD: The opera *Rosemunde* by Anton Schweitzer (1735-1787), text by Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1795), but the première, in Mannheim, was delayed until 20th January, 1780, following the death of the Bavarian Elector Maximilian III Joseph. Cf. Nos. 0377/62; 0385/55.

⁷⁵ BD: The composer Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787). Cf. Nos. 0125/110 ff.; 0135/35 ff.; 0420/160-161; 0476/33 ff.; 0684/43-44 and 0731/18 ff. In his concert on 23rd March, 1783, Mozart improvised variations on “*Unser dummen Pöbel meint*” from Gluck’s singspiel *La Rencontre imprévue* in honour of the composer present in the audience.

Gluck will have 60 years⁷⁷ on his slate, [265] and it is only in the last 26 or 27 years that people have begun to talk about him, and now your wish is that the French public, or even only the *directors* of public events, should be so convinced of your knowledge of composition⁷⁸ when they have never heard anything of it in their entire lives and have only known you since your childhood as an outstanding keyboard player and special genius. [270] Meanwhile, therefore, you must make efforts to press through to the front and prove able to show yourself as a composer in all genres – and for that one must search for the right opportunities and tirelessly look for friends, spur them on and give them no peace, arouse them again when they fall asleep, and not believe that something has already been just because they say so. [275] I would long since have written to *Msr. de Noverre*⁷⁹ myself if I had known his title and address. Meanwhile I and your friends will apply ourselves regarding Munich. All your and my thoughts and worries for Herr Weber⁸⁰ are pointless at the moment as long as you are not in better circumstances, which you must now bring about:

Then, when you have a reputation or a good position, [280] your care and help have more power and effect; now you will only be distracted, damage yourself, and not be able to help them.

Your sister and I kiss you wholeheartedly a million times, she was not able to write to you because I have written too much. Then next time, for God's sake! Take care of your health, otherwise we shall both die. [285] I am your true friend and sincere father, Mzt. About the war!⁸¹ Since Prince Heinrich⁸² did not succeed in pressing forward into Bohemia at Komotau,⁸³ he drew back to Pirna by Dressden⁸⁴ and pressed forward right up there at Rumberg,⁸⁵ Tollenstein,⁸⁶ Zwickau,⁸⁷ Leipa.⁸⁸ Laudon⁸⁹ had to cover the whole Saxon boundary from Eger⁹⁰ as far as Lusatia.⁹¹ He was positioned in the middle by Leitmeriz,⁹² [290] advanced rapidly towards Tornau,⁹³ so Prince Heinrich had to withdraw to Niemes⁹⁴

⁷⁶ BD: The composer Nicola Piccinni (1728-1806); cf. Nos. 0158/56, 0431/67, 0462/142 f.

⁷⁷ BD: Gluck was 64 years old.

⁷⁸ BD: A phrase later applied to Mozart by Joseph Haydn, cf. No. 0847/48-49.

⁷⁹ BD: Jean Georges Noverre (1727-1810), internationally active (Stuttgart, Milan), ballet master in Vienna 1755-1774. The Mozarts met him in Vienna in 1773. He became composer and master of ballet at the *Académie royale de Musique* and director of festivities [“*Directeur des Fêtes de Trianon*”] in Paris in 1776. His memoirs mention Mozart aged 12; they certainly met in 1778 in Paris, where Mozart wrote part of the music for *Les petits riens* KV Anh. 10 (299b). Cf. Nos. 0293/51; 0430/182.

⁸⁰ BD: Franz Fridolin Weber. Cf. note on line 83.

⁸¹ BD: The following places are in northern and north-eastern Bohemia. The War of the Bavarian Succession broke out when the Palatine Elector (Karl Theodor, cf. line 137) also became the Elector of Bavaria. Prussia, Bavaria and Austria were involved.

⁸² BD: Cf. No. 0036/69. Heinrich (1726-1802), brother of Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia. Successful military leader in the Seven Years' War.

⁸³ BD: Today Chomutov in the Czech Republic.

⁸⁴ Pirna, near Dresden, in Saxony, Germany.

⁸⁵ BD: Rumburg (Rumburk), in the north of the Czech Republic.

⁸⁶ BD: A spur of the central Bohemian mountains, south of Geographthal.

⁸⁷ BD: Today Cvikov, Czech Republic.

⁸⁸ BD: Now Č. Lipa, Czech Republic.

⁸⁹ BD: Gideon, Baron [Freiherr] von Laudon (Loudon) (1717-1790), Deutsch Bild No. 515. A Russian officer until 1739, joined the Austrian army in 1743. Conquered Belgrade in 1789 during the Turkish war. Mozart wrote funeral music (KV 594), apparently heard in a “mausoleum” erected for Laudon in 1791 (Deutsch Bild No. 516).

⁹⁰ Eger = Cheb, eastern Czech Republic.

⁹¹ = Lausitz, German area bordering Poland and Czech Republic.

⁹² BD: Today Litoměřice, south of Aussig.

⁹³ BD: East of Prague in eastern Bohemia. Now Turnov, Czech Republic.

⁹⁴ BD: Today Mimoň, Czech Republic.

and could not push through via Arnau⁹⁵ by Tornau to join up with the King,⁹⁶ for the Emperor⁹⁷ was in position at Nahod⁹⁸ facing the King, and Laudon was looking towards Nimes, facing Heinrich, so that the Emperor and Laudon formed a line and could back each other up. [295] Heinrich did not hold his ground, drew back down towards Leutmeriz,⁹⁹ the King left Nahod, where he had been in position since 5th *Julii*, and drew back behind Trautenau¹⁰⁰ into the mountains in order to force the Emperor's and Laudon's armies to separate. Now we must wait and see how they continue to block each other's advances. *addio*.

⁹⁵ BD: Today Hostinné.

⁹⁶ BD: Frederick II ("the Great") (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

⁹⁷ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia.

⁹⁸ BD: Nachod, today in the Czech Republic.

⁹⁹ BD: = Litoměřice above.

¹⁰⁰ BD: Today Trutnov.