

0506. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Le chevalier Wolfgang / Amadé Mozart maître
de musique / à / Mannheim*¹

Salzburg, 23rd Nov.,
1778

*Mon cher fils!*²

[5] My wish is that this letter should no longer find you in Mannheim, and, since you will have received my answer³ of the 19th, I hope that if you are still in Mannheim, you will leave with the first post-coach, and this is the reason why I have decided on this second letter to you. I am tired of your projects, with which you bring the very best plans, which I have often had, to nothing before my eyes, [10] a fact you will not recognise because you cannot think anything through with a cool head and without preconceptions – or do not want to, – of course often cannot, because you get carried away in a moment by the fire of your youth and by the enticing suggestions which are made to you now by one person, now by another, and take everything you see for gold, yet in the end it is nothing but deceptive tinsel. [15] In the process you forget that your father is your only best and true friend, who must – will and can – provide most reliably and unerringly what is best for you, both out of fatherly obligation according to the law of God, and out of love for his child. Nor could I always write to you about the concatenations and the context of my plan, [20] since one point or another depends on the changing of circumstances, beyond which, however, I already had 2 or 3 other paths in mind. There are two things that fill your head and keep you from any reasoned reflection. The first and principal cause is your love for *Mdss.^{le}* Weber,⁴ to which I am by no manner of means opposed; I was not against it back then when her father⁵ was poor, [25] why should I be now that she can make your fortune – and not that you can make hers? – and I must suppose that her father knows of this love, since all the Mannheimers known of it, – since Herr *Fiala*⁶ heard of it from them, – since Herr *Bullinger*,⁷ who is a tutor in Count *Lodron*'s⁸ house, spoke of it here that time when he drove back with the Mannheim *musici* in the post-coach from Ellwang⁹ |: where he was during the vacation :, [30] and these people had no other subject of conversation with him except your skill, composition and your love with *Mss.^{le}* Weber. – Now, I have long since written to you giving you my opinion that, by entering service here, you receive the opportunity to be closer to Munich, which you can reach in 18 hours – from where we can be informed of everything, even the least detail, [35] where we can make a pleasure trip as

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, Knight, director of music in Mannheim”.

² = “My dear son!”

³ BD: No. 0505.

⁴ BD: Leopold had previously expressed himself on the matter in No. 0482/92 ff.

⁵ BD: 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. Cf. No. 0405/29.

⁶ BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

⁷ 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. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

⁸ BD: Hereditary Marshall [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779). Cf. No. 0359/121.

⁹ BD: Ellwangen in Württemberg.

easily as to Seon,¹⁰ and from where Herr Weber and his *Mss.^{le}* daughter can visit us here and stay with us,¹¹ yes, I wish – and will now put it in writing – that you should invite Herr *Canabich*,¹² Herr Wendling,¹³ Herr Rahm,¹⁴ Herr Ritter¹⁵ to visit us – in spring and summer these gentlemen do not have much to do, and it will be a pleasure for them to make such a short and inexpensive pleasure trip. [40] In particular, entering service here |: although this, of course, is the second reason why your head is brim-full of ideas |: is the only sure opportunity to get to Italy again,¹⁶ which is lodged more firmly in my mind than everything else. And entering this service is ineluctably necessary, [45] otherwise you have the most damnable and most malign thoughts of subjecting your father, who cares so much for you, to disgrace and mockery; your father, who has sacrificed every hour of his life to his children in order to bring them reputation and honour, since I am not a position to pay off a debt, which amounts in all to 1000 florins,¹⁷ [50] if you do not help to pay it back by drawing your salary regularly here, in which case I can then certainly pay back over 400 florins each year and yet also live splendidly with both of you. That son who would allow himself to be thrown into prison in place of his father, yes, who would even wish to die for him, would surely have found it quite pleasant to earn some hundreds of guildens¹⁸ every year to please his father, [55] with a little inconvenience, but also with much pleasure mixed in with it, instead of sitting down for a whole winter to write a *concerto*¹⁹ for the sake of 25 *louis d'or*²⁰ and to leave his father languishing. But what use is everything that my sincere, fatherly heart proposes to you if, when you read the letter through with a fleeting glance, [60] you lay it aside without *reflection* – without carefully thinking over the events of your whole journey and my proposals to you – and abandon it for your fleeting favourite ideas and *projects*, which burst like a soap bubble in the air. You have already been deceived so often on this journey, you have experienced so many times that everyone who did you favours, [65] or at least the great majority of them, did it out of self-*interest* and with premeditation: and how many have promised you mountains of gold – and not kept it? – – – Dearest son! – you still know too little of the world. – – but when you are at home again, and then can reflect more calmly and with a cool head on all that has happened, on all the false promises and different circumstances [70] which elude you at the

¹⁰ BD: Seon by Trostberg, Upper Bavaria, to where the Mozarts apparently made an outing or outings. Two works are associated with the monastery there: the Offertory KV 34 was apparently written there between the end of December, 1766, and 21st March, 1767. A second offertory, KV 72 (74f), was written in Salzburg in May or June, 1771, for the name-day (24th June) of Father Johann Baptist von Haasi (1746-1821).

¹¹ BD: An offer made in No. 0480/36-37.

¹² 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. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter Rosa.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ BD: Georg Wenzel Ritter (1748-1808), from 1764 bassoonist in Mannheim. Went to Munich with the Elector in 1778. In 1788 he went to Berlin. Cf. No. 0057/9. These four Mannheim musicians had moved to Munich with Elector Karl Theodor.

¹⁶ BD: Leopold expresses hopes of such a journey in No. 0515/76, but the Mozarts never travelled to Italy again.

¹⁷ BD: The sum specified in No. 0505/73+ debts to various Salzburg merchants, such as Weiser (cf. No. 0375/71).

¹⁸ BD: Guildens are roughly equivalent in value to florins.

¹⁹ BD: Referring to No. 0504/47-49.

²⁰ BD: = 275 florins.

moment because of too many distractions and which your unsettled mind does not perceive, on all of these things: then you will also recall my letters and all my prophecies and foresight regarding the ingratitude of man and learn a useful lesson from that for the future. [75] Herr *Fiala* was with the Archbishop²¹ yesterday, and when the latter asked him all about the Mannheimers, especially about the compositions, Herr *Fiala* said to him that the best music the worthy Manheimers had was by Mozart: that in the very first concert, of the series held every Monday in the Emperor's Hall,²² with the exception of the symphony by *Cannabich*, everything else was by Mozart; [80] that immediately after the *symphony Mdss^{le}*. Weber²³ had sung an aria²⁴ by Mozart, the like of which he had never heard in his life. – Then he had to tell the Archbishop everything, – he asked him in particular about each person who had performed one of your *concertos* and displayed great pleasure at this, then he furthermore had to describe to him in detail the singing, age etc. of the Weber girl etc. – [85] My dear Wolfgang! I always think Herr Weber is a man who, like most people of that kind, presses close to you in poverty and then no longer knows you in prosperous circumstances. He flattered you because he needed you – perhaps he will now not even admit that you showed or taught her anything. Often those who were poor are thoroughly proud when they come into good circumstances. [90] – yesterday, Sunday, on *St. Cecilia's Day*, your sister invited *Ceccarelli*,²⁵ *Fiala* and his wife²⁶ to dine so that they could cheer me up, since I had been very sick since the 19th, when I received your letter from Manheim, because I could not sleep for whole nights and always thought about you, and the 21st was my wedding anniversary, when we, [95] if your honest, blessed mother were alive, would have been married 31 years. After the meal, Herr *Bullinger*, the esteemed paymaster,²⁷ the oboist *Feiner*,²⁸ and *Cath. Gilowsky* came for the air-gun shooting,²⁹ then we had coffee; at 4 o'clock everyone went to the theatre, and at 7 o'clock *Fiala* played a *concerto*, and the *symphony* was one of your *Finalmusik*³⁰ *symphonies*, *andante* and *trio* with *oboe solo*. [100] *Brunetti*³¹ had asked for all of these from Stadler³² and had them copied for the court; they performed it very well indeed. What a predicament I was in these last few days! When *Fiala's chest* and *baggage*³³ were weighed on the scales and were

²¹ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

²² “im KaysersSaale”. BD: In the Residenz in Munich.

²³ BD: Aloisia Weber (c. 1760-1839) was 17 when Mozart met first her. She was already singing at court in Mannheim. She became a focus of Mozart's romantic aspirations. 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. Her father is mentioned in line 24.

²⁴ BD: Probably *Non so, d'onde viene* KV 294 (cf. No. 0431/27 ff.).

²⁵ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

²⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0505/102; 0552/3. Josepha, née Prohaska.

²⁷ BD: Franz Vinzenz Lankmayr (1745-1823), Royal Paymaster [Hofzahlmeister], mentioned frequently in letters and notes as a friend of the Mozart family. Cf. No. 0337/9, 54.

²⁸ BD: Joseph Feiner, valet, and oboist in the Salzburg court music.

²⁹ BD: The shooting of airguns at humorously 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 all food and drinks consumed during the meeting. Cf. No. 0330/5.

³⁰ BD: A composition celebrating the end of the academic year. Probably KV 251.

³¹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35. Cf. No. 0346/10.

³² BD: Mathias (Franz de Paula) Stadler (c. 1744-1827); after completing grammar school in Salzburg, he studied law was later employed as a tenor in the court music, took over Leopold's duties as a violin teacher one month after the latter's death in 1787. In 1767 he sang Oebalus in *Apollo et Hyacinthus* KV 38. Cf. No. 0321/10.

³³ BD: He had decided to leave Munich. His baggage is described in No. 0505/100-102.

brought to me, the gentlemen Kolb³⁴ – Andretter³⁵ and the whole world thought it was your baggage and that you would arrive the next day with the post-coach: there was a rushing to and fro! For nothing! I have had a clothes chest³⁶ made in your room in which one can quite comfortably put one's clothes on frames, without drawers, with two doors, very convenient, and the *clavichord*³⁷ was placed under the writing desk a long time ago. Count *Sigerl Lodron*³⁸ was close to death the day before yesterday. [110] They had to make 2 new incisions in his body, and such an unbearable stink and putrid matter started to develop some days ago that people became ill from it; today it is slightly better, for the matter is flowing fresh again and is no longer black. – Do not stay any longer if you are still there, if you wish me to believe that you love me and still want to preserve my life, [115] I kiss you a million times and am your sincere father
Mzt

Your sister embraces you with her whole heart. *Ceccarelli* cannot wait for the moment when he sees you again. Herr *Bullinger*, *Fiala*, his wife, Herr *Feiner*, our young, slap-dash Miss *Gilowsky*, all the *Robinigs*,³⁹ the *Andretters*,⁴⁰ *Mölks*,⁴¹ *Hagenauers*,⁴² *Kolbs*⁴³ etc. commend themselves.

[120] I have moved *Fiala* to the *Hagenauers* to stay in the lodging 3 stairs up, where you and your sister were born. I hope therefore that you will leave at once, otherwise I will write to *Md.^{me} Cannabich*⁴⁴ – I wish, God willing, to live a couple of years longer, pay my debts – and then, if you are so inclined, you can run your head against the wall: – – yet, No! [125] you have too good a heart! There is nothing malicious in you – you are simply light-headed! It will yet all turn out well!

³⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0466/35 etc. This is probably the merchants' factor and city councillor Johann Anton Kolb, cf. Nos. 0088/191; 0337/58, who probably had business to do with the "foreign merchants", who had probably come for the autumn fair ("Dult") in Salzburg. It is known that Mozart wrote a violin concerto for Kolb (cf. No. 0473/148). Possibilities include KV 207 or 271a (271i). But it could be Franz Xaver Kolb, who was administrator of the Order of St. Rupert [Ruperti-Ritterorden] and for the Chancellor of the Salzburg Parliament of the Estates, Johann Ernst von Antretter(n). Schiedenhofen on Kolb: BD V, p. 512: There is a description of an amateur violinist Kolb in Schiedenhofen's diary for 15th August, 1777: "... has a good tone, much strength, and speed, only it went a little off-tune occasionally."

³⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0362/141. The family of Johann Ernst von Antretter, Esquire [Edlen von Antretter], († 1792), Imperial Knight [Reichsritter], farmer and Regional Chancellor to the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler], Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat]. After his administrative career, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house. Cf. No. 0533/15, 0362/141.

³⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0494/55-57.

³⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0494/57-59.

³⁸ "Graf Sigerl Lodron". BD: Sigmund, Count [Graf] Lodron, son of the Hereditary Marshall [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779). Cf. No. 0359/121. On his illness cf. No. 0505/110-115.

³⁹ BD: Family of factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). The family was in frequent contact with the Mozarts. Cf. No. 0016/67.

⁴⁰ BD: Family of the Antretter mentioned in line 103.

⁴¹ BD: Family of Franz Felix Anton von Molk (1714-1776), Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler] in Salzburg.

⁴² BD: Family of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts, and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁴³ BD: Family of the Kolb mentioned in line 103.

⁴⁴ BD: Wolfgang was staying with her in Mannheim. A similar threat was made in No. 0505/67 ff.