

0602.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*de vienne / A Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart Maître de /
Chapelle de S: A: R: / l'archeveque de Salsbourg / à / Salsbourg*²

Vienne ce 2 de Juin

*Mon Très Cher Père!*³

1781.

[5] From my last letter⁴ you will have gathered that I have spoken with Count *Arco*⁵ himself; praise and thanks be to God that everything went off so well. – Do not be worried, you do not have the least <reason to be afraid of the Archbishop>⁶ – for Count *Arco* did not say with a single word that I should not forget that <it could be to your detriment> – [10] and when he said to me that you had written⁷ to him and complained strongly about me, I interrupted him at once and said: And not to me, are you sure? – what he wrote to me was such that I often thought I would go crazy over it – but, regardless of how I reflected on the matter – I simply cannot etc. – Then he said to me: Believe me, sir, you are letting yourself be dazzled too much here; – here a person's fame has a very short duration [15] – right at the beginning one receives all the lauding accolades and also earns a great deal, that is true – but for how long? – after a few months the Viennese want something new you again; – You are right, worthy Count, I said; – Do you then think that I will stay in Vienna? – – Ah, by no means; I already know where I am going. – It is the Archbishop's fault that this occurrence took place just in Vienna, and not mine; [20] – if he knew how to treat people of talent, this would not have happened. – Worthy Count, I am the best fellow in the world – as long as others are the same to me; – Yes, the Archbishop, said he, considers you to be a most arrogant person. I believe that, said I, towards him that is admittedly what I am; how people are with me is how I am in return; – yet if I see that someone despises and disregards me, [25] I can be as proud as a peacock⁸. – Among other things he also asked me whether I perhaps did not believe that he too often had to swallow harsh words? – I shrugged my shoulders and said: you will have your reasons for tolerating that, and I – have my reasons for – not tolerating it. – All the rest you know from my last letter. [30] – Have no doubts, my dearest, best of fathers; it is certainly for the best for me – and consequently also for you. – There is no doubt that the Viennese enjoy bringing people down – but only in the theatre. – and my speciality is too popular here for me not to be able to *keep* myself. Here we are quite certainly in *Keyboard Land!* – and then, supposing it is so, the fall would come only after a few years, [35] certainly not before. – In the meantime one has gained for oneself fame and money – there are of course other places as well – and who knows what kind of opportunity may arise meanwhile? – I have spoken with Herr von *Zetti*⁹ and I will send something to you with him – on this occasion you will have to be content with little – I cannot send you more than 30 ducats.¹⁰ – [40] If I had foreseen this development, I would have taken on the pupils who applied to me

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

² BD: Address not in Mozart's hand, again hiding his authorship of the letter.

³ = "From Vienna. To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of Salzburg in Salzburg / Vienna, the second day of June, 1781 / My very dear father."

⁴ BD: No. 0601.

⁵ "Graf". BD: Karl Joseph Felix, Count [Graf] Arco (1743-1830), son of Count [Graf] Georg Anton Felix Arco, held various offices in Salzburg, including High Master of the Kitchen [Oberstküchenmeister]. Played a role in the dismissal of Mozart as described in No. 0604/4 ff.

⁶ 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.

⁷ BD: No. 0600, lost.

⁸ Mozart uses the word "Pavian" (= baboon). Perhaps a play on the "pavone" (= peacock)?

⁹ BD: A member of the Salzburg court retinue still in Vienna; responsible for the Archbishop's accommodation.

¹⁰ BD: = 135 florins.

back then – but then I thought I would be leaving in a week, and now they are in the country.
– The *portrait*¹¹ will follow too; if he cannot take it with him, it will come by post-coach.
Now may life go truly well for you, dearest, best of fathers. I kiss your hands 1000 times and
embrace my dear sister from my heart [45] and am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son,
Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

My compliments to all good friends,
both gentlemen and ladies. I will
[50] reply to Ceccarelli¹² soon.

¹¹ BD: Diplomatic skills were apparently required to coax the artist into parting with this family portrait. Cf. Nos. 0537/87; 0585/96; 0595/96; 0606/4; 0608/5 ff.

¹² BD: Ceccarelli had already returned to Salzburg from Vienna and had evidently written to Mozart (No. 0601a, lost). – 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.