

0612. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold / Mozart maitre de la Chapelle / à /
Salzbourg*

Mon très cher Père!

vienne ce 25 de Juillet¹ 1780²

Once again I tell you that I have long had it in mind to take other lodgings,³ [5] and that purely because of people's chatter;⁴ – and I regret that I am forced to do it because of an absurd rumour in which there is not a word of truth. I would indeed just like to know what joy certain people have saying whatever they want in this way without any grounds. – Because I live with them, I then marry the daughter;⁵ [10] there was no talk at all of being in love, they passed that by, but that I take lodgings in the house and marry. – If ever in my life I have not thought about marrying, it is certainly now.⁶ – for |: although there is nothing I wish for less than a rich wife |: if I really could make my fortune now by marriage, I could not possibly oblige, because I have other things altogether in my head. [15] – God did not give me my talent for me to tie it onto a wife and thus spend my young life aimlessly in inactivity. – I am just beginning to live, and should make it bitter for myself? – I certainly value nothing more highly than marriage, but at the moment it would be a calamity for me. Now I have no other recourse, I must, even if it is in fact not true, [20] at least avoid the appearance; – although the appearance is based on nothing other than – that I live there – for anyone who does not come into the house cannot even say whether I have as much contact with her as with any other of God's creatures; for the children⁷ go out only seldom – nowhere except the theatre, and I never go with them because I am usually not at home when it is time for the theatre. [25] – We were in the Prater⁸ a couple of times, and then her mother⁹ went too; and as I am in the house I could not refuse to go with them. – and at that time I did not yet hear any such foolish talk. But then I must also say that I was not allowed to pay anything but my share. – and since the mother heard such talk herself and also knows of it from me, [30] I must tell you that she herself no longer wishes that we should go anywhere together and herself advised me to move elsewhere so as to avoid further vexations, for she says she would not like to be innocently responsible for my misfortune.¹⁰ – So this is the only reason why I have had it in mind to move away |: since they started talking this way |: – [35] and as far as the truth is concerned, I have no reason, but where the yappers are concerned I do. – and if this talk were not going around, I would hardly move away. For I would of course easily find a finer room, but – hardly – the *comodité*,¹¹ and such friendly and helpful people; – nor do I want to say that I am contrary with the *Mademoiselle*¹² in the house to whom I have already been married [40] and do not speak at all – but I am not in love either; – I clown around and have some amusement with her when time allows me |: and that is only in the evening when I take supper at home –

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director in Salzburg. My very dear father! / Vienna, this 25th day of July.”

² BD: Error. Corrected to "1781" in another hand.

³ BD: Leopold had obviously again urged Wolfgang (No. 0611a, lost) to move out of the Webers' house.

⁴ BD: Wolfgang was obviously aware of the talk.

⁵ BD: Presumably Constanze Weber.

⁶ BD: Within five months, Mozart tells a different story and writes how he had long wished to tell his father the truth. Cf. No. 0648/14-15, 17 ff.,

⁷ BD: The unmarried Weber daughters Josepha, Constanze and Sophie.

⁸ Meadowlands and pleasure park beside the Danube in Vienna.

⁹ BD: Frau Weber: Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793), married Franz Fridolin Weber (1733-1779) in 1756. They had 5 daughters and 1 surviving son.

¹⁰ BD: No doubt a clever dissimulation on the part of Frau Weber.

¹¹ = “Convenience”.

¹² BD: Constanze.

for in the morning I compose in my room and in the afternoon I am seldom at home :| and in this manner – otherwise nothing at all; if I had to marry everyone with whom I have had some amusement, [45] I would have to have easily 200 wives. – Now to come to the money.

My pupil¹³ stayed in the country for 3 weeks – I therefore had no takings, but the expenses went on uninterruptedly. – I was therefore no longer able to send you 30 ducats¹⁴ – but 20 – but because I gave myself hopes because of the *souscriptions*,¹⁵ I wanted to wait so as to be able to send you the promised *summa*¹⁶ of 50. – But now Countess Thun¹⁷ says there is no point thinking about the *souscription* before autumn – because everyone with money is in the country – at the moment she has not more than 10 persons,¹⁸ and my pupil not more than seven – meanwhile I am having 6 sonatas engraved, *Arteria*¹⁹ |: music-engraver :| has already spoken with me; [55] as soon as they are sold so that I get money, I will send it to you.

Now I must ask my sister's pardon for not congratulating her in writing on her name-day.²⁰ – The letter lies started on the desk. – as I was starting the letter on Saturday,²¹ [60] Countess Rumbeck's servant came and said everyone wanted to go into the country, did I perhaps want to go with them – because I do not want to turn down anything from Cobenzl, I left the letter lying, quickly packed my things and went with them. – I thought my sister would not take offence. – So in the octave²² I wish her all the good and profitable things [65] that a sincere brother who loves his sister from his heart can possibly wish, and kiss her most tenderly.

Today I drove into town again with the Count,²³ and tomorrow I drive back out with him. Now may life go truly well for you, dearest, best of fathers, and trust your son, [70] who assuredly has the best sentiments towards all upright people; – and why should he not have them towards his dear father and sister? – – believe him and trust him more than certain people – who have nothing better to do than slander honest people – Now *adieu* – I kiss your hands 1000 times and am, sir, eternally your

[75]

most obedient son,
Wolfgang Amadè
Mozart

¹³ BD: Marie Karoline, Countess [Gräfin] Thiennes de Rumbeke, cousin of Count [Graf] Johann Philipp Cobenzl (see below) and Mozart's first pupil in Vienna.

¹⁴ BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins.

¹⁵ BD: Subscriptions for the six sonatas mentioned in No. 0598/38.

¹⁶ = "sum, amount".

¹⁷ "Gräfin". BD: Mozart's patroness, Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800), wife of Johann Joseph Anton, Count [Graf] Thun (1711-1788), Imperial Chamberlain [kaiserlicher Kämmerer], Freemason, husband of. Mozart described him as "strange", probably because of his inclination to the mystical and magical, as in his admiration for Franz Anton Mesmer. It was in their house that Mozart and his wife lodged returning from Salzburg in 1783, on which occasion Mozart wrote the Linz Symphony KV 425. Cf. Nos. 0766/16; 0863/8.

¹⁸ = "subscribers". BD: The subscription is mentioned in No. 0598/38.

¹⁹ BD: Artaria & Co., Vienna, music publishers.

²⁰ BD: 26th July (Anna).

²¹ BD: Presumably 21th July, 1781.

²² BD: Octave in the ecclesiastical sense, a period of eight days counting from a festival.

²³ "graf". BD: With Johann Philipp, Count [Graf] Cobenzl, State Chancellor (1741-1810). Mozart frequented his house in Vienna. Cf. No. 0069/35-37.