

0641.¹ Mozart to his father, Salzburg

À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle de
S: A: R: / l'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg

vienna ce 17 de Nov.^{bre}

Mon très cher Père!²

1781

[5] I have received your letter of the 6th safely. – Regarding *Ceccarelli*,³ that cannot possibly be done, even if it were one single night; for I have only one single room, which is not large, and is already so full with desk, table and keyboard that I do not know where one could set up a bed as well. – and I would not wish to sleep in one bed – with anyone except my future wife. [10] – but I will look around, as circumstances allow, for a low-priced *lodging* for him, as long as I know for certain when he is coming. – I have not seen Countess Schönborn⁴ the whole time; I did not have the heart to go there, nor have I done that – I know her – she would |: quite certainly :| say something to me which I might perhaps not be able to swallow without an answer, [15] – and it is always better to avoid things of that kind – it is enough that she knows I am here – and if she wants me, she can have me. *Czernin*⁵ did not manage to contain himself over the story with Mölk,⁶ and asked him⁷ at a public dinner whether he perhaps had some news about his brother the Court Counsellor? – Mölk was taken aback and could not give any answer.[20] – I would certainly have answered him. He was ruined in a house which they *frequented* intensely –

I will call on the Klötzl⁸ family as soon as possible. – Now I have finally received something to work on for my *opera*⁹ again. Yes, if one were always prepared to believe and trust the people, the so-called scandal-mongers! – [25] what great damage one would often do to oneself. – They stirred me up so much regarding the young Stephani that it is unspeakable – in the process I became thoroughly anxious – and if I had done what people had told me, I would have made an enemy for myself out of a good friend, one who could do me great damage, and for no reason at all; – [30]

Yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Archduke Maximilian¹⁰ sent for me – as I went in, he was standing right in the first room next to the heating stove, and waiting for me; he immediately came towards me and asked me whether I perhaps had to do anything today. – Your Royal Highness, nothing at all; – and if I had, it would always be gracious in my eyes to be of service to Your Royal Highness. – [35] No, I do not wish to trouble anybody. – Then he said to me that he had in mind to put on *music* in the evening for the ladies and gentlemen from Würt[t]emberg. – So I should play something as part of it, and *accompany* the *arias*. – and at 6 o'clock I should come to him again; then they would all gather. – I therefore played

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

² = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 17th day of November, 1781. / My very dear father!"

³ 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.

⁴ "gräfin". BD: Maria Theresia, Countess [Gräfin] Schönborn, née Colorado, sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁵ BD: Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin zu Chudenitz, son of the "old" Czernin, brother of Countess [Gräfin] Antonia Lützw. Senior Chancellor and thus responsible for the theatre in Vienna.

⁶ BD: Franz Felix Anton von Mölk: Court Chancellor. For reasons which have not come down to us, Franz von Mölk was ordered to leave the country by the Archbishop. He died in Dinkelsbühl in 1800.

⁷ BD: Albert von Mölk (1749-1799), Consistorial Advisor from 1779 onwards, brother of Franz Felix Anton.

⁸ BD: The family of Christoph Joseph, Count [Graf] Kletzl von Altenach und Donaudorf.

⁹ BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, in cooperation with (Johann) Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), ("the Younger"), who was largely responsible for the text.

¹⁰ "Erzherzog". BD: Archduke Maximilian Franz, youngest son of Maria Theresia.

there yesterday. – If God gives someone an office, he also gives him understanding – [40] and it really is that way with the <Archduke>. – When he was still a priest, he was much wittier and more intellectual, and spoke less but more sensibly. – You should see him now! – the <stupidity> peers out at you from his eyes. – He goes on talking and speaking for all eternity, and all in a *falsetto*. – He has a swollen neck. – In a word, as if the gentleman had been completely changed round. – [45] But the Duke von Württemberg¹¹ is a *charming* gentleman – as are the Duchess and the Princess. But the Prince is an 18-year-old stick, and truly a calf. –

Now I must close – may life go very well for you indeed, and remain in the highest spirits possible! – I kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally your [50]

most obedient son,

W: A: Mozart

¹¹ “herzog”. BD: Friedrich Eugen von Württemberg (1732-1797), accompanied by his wife and two children. The Princess was promised to the nephew of the Emperor.