

0689. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

| de Vienne | À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart maitre / de la  
chapelle de S: A: R: l'arche= / =veque de et à / Salzbourg.

Vienne ce 24 d'Août  
1782

Mon très cher Père!<sup>1</sup>

[5] What you have pictured to yourself is nothing other than what I really was ready to do – and am still ready to do; – and likewise I must confess to you the truth that my wife and I have been waiting, from day to day, for some certain news regarding the arrival of the Russian ladies and gentlemen so as either to undertake our planned journey or to have to delay it; [10] and since, up to the present moment, we still know nothing certain about it, it has therefore also been impossible for me to write telling you anything about it. – Some say they are coming on the 7<sup>th</sup> September – some, again, say they are not coming at all; – if the latter were true, we would already be in Salzburg at the beginning of October – but if they do come, it is not only very necessary |: according to the advice of my good friends :| for me to be here, [15] but my absence would also be a complete triumph for my enemies and would possibly be most detrimental to me! – If I were then |: as will more probably happen :| to be named teacher to the Princess von Würtemberg,<sup>2</sup> I could easily obtain permission to visit my father for a time; – if it absolutely has to be delayed, [20] no-one will be sorrier than my dear wife and myself – since we can hardly wait for the moment when we embrace our dearest, best of fathers and dearest sister.

As far as France and England are concerned, you are completely right!<sup>3</sup> – it is a step which will always be open to me – it is better if I wait patiently here a little longer [25] – in the meantime, times may change in these countries themselves. –

Last Tuesday |: after, God be praised, a fortnight's pause :| my opera<sup>4</sup> was performed again to the applause of all. –

I am very glad indeed that the *symphony*<sup>5</sup> has turned out to your taste. [30] – *à propos*<sup>6</sup> – you have no idea |: or perhaps you do :| of where I am *lodging*; – where do you think? – in the same house where we *stayed* 14 years ago<sup>7</sup> – on the Hohe Brücke, in the Grünwald house – but now it is called the Groshaupt house<sup>8</sup> N:° 387. Stephani the Younger<sup>9</sup> arrived yesterday. I called on him today. – *Elisabetha* Wendling<sup>10</sup> is already here, too. [35] Now you must forgive me that I have to close already, but I got carried away chatting to Herr von Strack<sup>11</sup> – In my heart I hope that the ladies and gentlemen will not come so that I will soon have the pleasure of kissing your hands. –

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<sup>1</sup> “[From Vienna | To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Vienna, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1782. / My very dear father!”

<sup>2</sup> “Prinzessin von Würtemberg”. BD: Cf. No. 0641/46. Elisabeth von Württemberg, who married the Emperor's nephew Franz.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Leopold had obviously advised against these journeys. Cf. Nos. 0686/45 ff. and 0692/41-42.

<sup>4</sup> BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. It ran again from 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1782, after a pause following 6<sup>th</sup> August.

<sup>5</sup> BD: KV 385.

<sup>6</sup> (Here:) = “By the way”.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Returning to Vienna after Olmütz in 1767.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Named after the owner, Johann Georg Groshaupt.

<sup>9</sup> BD: (Johann) Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), (“the Younger”), studied law, became a soldier, became member of the Burgtheater company, Vienna, in 1769. At least 32 of his stage works were put on there in 393 performances between 1776 and 1846.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Sang *Elektra* in *Idomeneo* in Munich. Cf. No. 0583/40-41.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0596/44. Johann Kilian Strack (1724-1793), entered Imperial service in 1758 as a widowed soldier, rose to be valet to Joseph II. Closely connected with the Weber and Thorwart families. Played violoncello in a private string quartet with the Emperor, is said to have influenced the Emperor against Mozart, Haydn and others.

My wife weeps for pleasure when she thinks of the journey to Salzburg; – [40] may life go well for you – we kiss your hands 1000 times, and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children,  
W. A. Mozart mp<sup>12</sup>  
Man and Wife  
are joined for life.<sup>13</sup>

[45]

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<sup>12</sup> mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.

<sup>13</sup> “Mann und Weib / ist ein Leib”: Mozart’s rhyme literally means “Man and woman / is one body”.