

Vienne ce 10 d'avril
1784.

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

I beg you, do not on any account be angry with me for not having written to you for so long; – indeed you know how much I had to do here at this time! – [5] with my 3 *subscription concerts*² I have gained a great deal of honour to my name. – My *concert* in the theatre turned out very well too. – I have written 2 grand *concertos*,³ and then a *quintet*,⁴ which has received exceptional applause; – personally I consider it the best that I have written in my whole life. – it consists of *1 oboe, 1 Clarinetto, 1 Corno, 1 fagotto*, and the *piano forte*; [10] – I would have wished you could have heard it! – and how beautifully it was performed! – By the way |: to confess the truth |: I have become tired recently – from nothing but playing. – and it is no small honour for me that this never happened to my audience. – Now I have a task for you: old *Baron du Pain*⁵ |: who owns every possible kind of beautiful and also bad music: [15] would like to have the following *rondò* and *duetto by Gatti*.⁶ – *Recit.:^{vo} Ah! non sdegnarti o cara. – Rondò. Nel lasciarti in questo istante. – Duetto. Ne' giorni tuoi felici* etc: I would therefore be greatly obliged to you if you could *procure* these 2 pieces for me as soon as possible. – I will make sure of paying for the *copies* via Herr Peisser.⁷ [20] Today I have now finished a yet another new *concerto* for Fräulein Ployer;⁸ [20] and now I am already half dressed to go to Prince Kaunitz.⁹ – yesterday I played at Leopold Palfy's.¹⁰ – tomorrow at the *concert* which *Mad.^{elle} Bayer*¹¹ is giving. – Now another thing; – when Hafeneder¹² died, Herr von Ployer¹³ was given the task of looking for a *violinist*. – [25] I confidentially *recommended* to him a certain *Menzl* – a handsome, young, skilled person. – But forbade him to make any mention of me, otherwise it might not go through. – he is now waiting for the decree. – I believe he will receive 400 florins – and a *suit* – I have already upbraided *Menzl* regarding the suit – for it is beggarly. – [30] should anything come of it, I will give *Menzl* a letter for you to take with him, as well as the *musique*; – and then you will find in him an orderly *violinist* who can also play thoroughly well at sight; – no-one in *Vienna* has played my *quartets* so well *à vista*¹⁴ as he has. – and he is the best fellow in the world, who will take pleasure in making *musique* in your home as often as you wish. – [35] I also included him in the *orchestra* for my *concerts*. – Now I must close; my wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children,

¹ “Vienna, this 10th day of April, 1784. / My very dear father!”

² BD: On 17th, 24th and 31st March, 1784. Cf. No. 0778/9.

³ BD: KV 450 and 451.

⁴ BD: KV 452.

⁵ BD: Perhaps the “Baron duping” or “Baron Dupin” mentioned in Nos. 0249/21 and 0251/66, but possibly also Court Counsellor [Hofrat] Arodats Joseph Philipp du Beyne de Malechamp, with whom the Mozart's ate on 28th August, 1773 (No. 0293/5-6).

⁶ BD: There is no evidence of the existence of these pieces.

⁷ BD: Franz Xaver Peisser, banker in Vienna, correspondent of the Salzburg firm Hagenauer and known to the Mozarts since 1762.

⁸ BD: KV 453, for the pianist Barbara (Babette) von Ployer, daughter of Gottfried Ignaz (*von* from 1780 on) Ployer, a high official. Mozart composed for her and played with her in numerous private concerts.

⁹ “fürst kaunitz”. BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, State Chancellor [Staatskanzler].

¹⁰ BD: Leopold (III), Count [Graf] Pálffy, son of Field Marshall-General Leopold (II), Count [Graf] Pálffy (1716-1773) and his wife, Maria Josepha, née Countess [Gräfin] Waldstein.

¹¹ BD: Mad:^{elle} Bayer (*1760), daughter of one of the court trumpeters.

¹² BD: Joseph Hafeneder, court musician and composer. Cf. No. 0321/40.

¹³ BD: Gottfried Ignaz von Ployer.

¹⁴ = “at sight”.

Mozart mp¹⁵

¹⁵ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.