

0563. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

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

Munic ce 16 Dec.^{.bre}
1780.

Mon très cher Père!¹

[5] Yesterday Herr Esser² called on me for the first time – did he go on foot in Salzburg? – or did he always drive around in the coach as he does here? – I believe the little bit of Salzburg money³ will not want to stay in his purse. – On Sunday we eat together at *Cannabich's*,⁴ and there he will have to let us hear his clever and clownish solos. – He says he is not giving a *concert* here [10] – nor does he want to perform at court – and is not seeking to do so – If the Elector⁵ does want to hear him, *Eh bien*⁶ – I am here – this will be a distinction for me; – but – I am not announcing myself –

Otherwise he may be a good-hearted clown – by the devil, I meant to say knight – he once asked me why I do not wear the spur⁷ – [15] I said it was hard enough for me to carry the one in my head; – he was so kind as to brush down my suit a little while I was wearing it and said: One knight must indeed serve another. – Despite that, quite certainly out of forgetfulness, he did indeed leave his spur |: I mean the external one – the visible one |: at home when he came to *Cannabich's* that same afternoon, [20] or at least knew how to hide it so well that one did not catch even the least glimpse of it. – Now quickly so that I do not forget it again: – *Mad:me* and *Mad:selle* *Cannabich* have gradually started to develop slightly thicker necks because of the air and water here; the latest was that it could even become a goitre – God preserve us! – [25] they are taking a certain powder, though, what do you call it? – but that's not its name. – No; – but it is not turning out to anyone's *contendrement*⁸ at all – for which reason I took the liberty of recommending the so-called goitre pills, telling a story |: in order to raise the value of these pills |: that my sister had had 3 goitres; – each bigger than the one before – – and then was nevertheless finally [30] entirely free of it thanks to these splendid pills – if they can be made up here, I ask for the prescription – – but if they can only be made in our town – I would ask you to send me some hundredweights of them with the next post-coach against cash payment – you know my address.

All that about the Electress⁹ is a first-rate lie – [35] because the Empress¹⁰ has now died, people believe it is spreading from one great woman to the next – The Margrave of Anspach,¹¹ too, has already been declared dead. – The Emperor¹² is said to have had a fall –

¹ = “To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. / Munich, this 16th day of December, 1780 / My very dear father!”

² BD: Karl Michael Esser (* c. 1735, untraceable after 1791). He is not mentioned in the travel notes for Mainz. His astounding feats on the violin are mentioned in No. 0556/21 ff.

³ BD: Esser's earnings from the concert mentioned in No. 0557/4.

⁴ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13. In 1777 Mozart dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to his daughter Rosa.

⁵ “Churfürst”. BD: Elector [Kurfürst] Karl Theodor of the Palatinate (1724-1799) in Mannheim and from 1778 in Munich.

⁶ = “Ah well”.

⁷ BD: Both men had received the Order of the Golden Spur from the Pope.

⁸ BD: Presumably “*contentement*” – contentment, satisfaction.

⁹ “Churfürstin”. BD: Cf. No. 0558/22. Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794), dedicatee of the clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l). Published in Paris by J.G. Sieber.

¹⁰ BD: Maria Theresia died in the evening on 29th November, 1780.

¹¹ “Margraf von Ansbach”. BD: Karl Alexander, ruled 1760-1791.

and to be in very bad shape; – I will readily admit that he is a little out of sorts, and that for political reasons |: because of the church services¹³ :|. – It may be that Herr *Bergopzoomer*¹⁴ will come here with his wife¹⁵ |: *Mad:^{selle} Schindler* :|; [40] for Count Seeau¹⁶ said to me yesterday that he had received letters from him in which he enquired whether one might give a musical *recital* here, and whether it is worth the trouble? – I do not know if he will then come on the strength of the reply. – This afternoon there is the rehearsal of the first and second acts¹⁷ – once again in the room at the Count’s – then we shall not rehearse anything more in the room except the third act [45] – but then move to the theatre immediately – the rehearsal has always been put off because of the copyist – which has made Count Sensheim¹⁸ hopping mad. – Regarding the score to be copied, I did not have to put it to delicately at all, but said outright to the Graf, It was always the custom in Mannheim |: where the music director [50] was certainly well paid :| that he got the original back again – and that the reason it happened all the faster in this case |: for the first act has already been copied :| was that Danzig |: the violoncellist :|, already in advanced years, would certainly not be able to read my little notes at night. – As far as the so-called popular¹⁹ is concerned, do not worry at all, for there is music in my opera for people of all kinds [55] – except for long ears.²⁰ –

Apropós,²¹ how then do things stand with ²²<the Archbishop>? – next Monday it will be <six weeks> that I <have been away from Salzburg>;²³ you know, my dear father, but I am only in²⁴ <out of consideration for you> – for – by God, if it was up to me – I would have <wiped my bottom with the last decree of appointment> before <setting off> this time, [60] for by my honour it is not <Salzburg> – but <the Prince – the proud *noblesse*²⁵> that become more unbearable to me by the day – so I would look forward with pleasure <to his having a letter sent to me saying he no longer needs me> – I would also be sufficiently <secure>, in view of <the> great <patronage> that I currently <have here>, against <present> and [65] <future circumstances> – <with the exception of deaths> – for which <no-one> can give surety – but which can do nothing to <harm a person> of <talent> who is <single>, – yet – for your sake anything in the world – and it would be still easier for me if one could only get away occasionally for a short time to snatch breath – [70] you know how hard they made it <to get away this time>. Without a <major reason> there is <no point thinking about it> – one could <weep> when one thinks about it – so away with it – – *Adieu!* – I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my sister with my whole heart and am eternally your
[75] Come to me soon in
Munich – and hear my

¹² BD: Succeeding Maria Theresia, the new ruler of the Habsburg lands was her son Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790.

¹³ BD: The suggestion is that he is feigning illness to save attending all the services in memory of the deceased Empress.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0558/44. Johann Baptist Bergopzoomer, acted at the Burgtheater in Vienna from 1774-1782 and 1791-1804. His wife was the actress Katharina Schindler, related to the first wife of Joseph Lange, who married Aloisia Weber.

¹⁵ BD: Both actors; cf. note on No. 0558/44.

¹⁶ “Graf Seeau”. BD: Josef Anton, Count [Graf] Seeau († 1799), from 1753 supervisor of the Palace Theatre [Residenztheater] in Munich. One of his relatives, Ferdinand, Count [Graf] Seeau, († 1768) was Senior Stable Master [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0300/11.

¹⁷ BD: Of *Idomeneo*.

¹⁸ “Graf Sensheim”. BD: Franz Joseph Maria, Imperial Count [Reichsgraf] von Seinsheim († 1786), Bavarian conference minister and minister for foreign affairs. Cf. No. 0331/106.

¹⁹ Cf. No. 0588/58.

²⁰ Cf. No. 0588/58.

²¹ Here: “By the way”.

²² Use of the “family code” is indicated by angle brackets < >.

²³ BD: Mozart had been given only six weeks leave of absence and would now have to apply for an extension.

²⁴ BD: The dots left by Mozart presumably stand for Salzburg.

²⁵ = “Nobility”.

opera – and then tell me
– if I am <wrong
to be sad> when I
[80] <think about Salz . . .²⁶>! –

most obedient son
Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

Adieu –
My compliments to all good friends, both gentlemen
[85] and ladies, as likewise from everyone here –
– particularly from the *Cannabich* household.

²⁶ Dots left by Mozart.