

Vienne ce 19 d'octobre
1782

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

Yet again, I must write to you in haste. I do not understand it, otherwise on Fridays I have always safely received a letter from you in the afternoon; – [5] now I can send people however I wish, yet I do not get it until Saturday evening; – concerning my *opera*,² I regret that you have had so much trouble with it. – Yes, I have certainly, and indeed to my great joy |: for you are well aware that I am an Arch-Englishman³ :|, heard about England's victories!⁴ –

Today the Russian court⁵ left again. The other day my *opera* was performed for him,⁶ [10] in which I found it right take my place at the *keyboard* again and *conduct*, partly to re-awaken an *orchestra* somewhat sunk in slumber, partly to show myself |: because I happen to be here :| to the ladies and gentlemen present as the father of my child. –

My dearest father; – I must confess to you that I can hardly wait to see you again [15] and to kiss your hands; – and this was also the motivation for wanting to be in Salzburg by 15th *November*, your name-day; only – the best time here is beginning now. – People are coming back from the country, and taking *lessons*. – The *concerts*, too, are beginning; – by the first days *decembris*,⁷ then, I would have to be in Vienna again. [20] How hard it would be for my wife and me to leave again so soon; – we would of course prefer to enjoy the presence of our dear father and our dear sister for longer! – Now it depends on you, whether you would like to have us for a long or short time? – We were thinking of spending spring with you. I cannot even speak the name of Salzburg to my dear wife, otherwise she is at once completely beside herself for joy! [25] – the Barber of Salzburg⁸ |: and not of *Seville* :| called on me and passed on the finest compliments from you, from my sister and from Katherl;⁹ – Now I wish you well in every way; – we both kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace my dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children,

*M: C: et W: A: Mozart mp*¹⁰

[30]

¹ = “Vienna, this 19th day of October, 1782. / My very dear father!”

² BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, cf. Nos. 0695/23 ff.; 0700/9 ff.; 0702/2 ff.

³ BD: This self-characterisation is presumably based more on feelings than political convictions; the disappointing experiences in Paris in 1778 may also play a role here.

⁴ BD: The relief of Gibraltar by Lord Richard Howe and the annihilation of the French fleet by Sir Edward Hughes.

⁵ BD: The Grand Prince and entourage, cf. No. 0689/8.

⁶ BD: *The Abduction*, on 8th October, 1783.

⁷ = “of December”.

⁸ BD: Referring to Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky von Urazowa, ante-chamber servant and court surgeon. A German version of Beaumarchais' *Barber of Seville* was been performed in Vienna as early as 1775.

⁹ BD: Katharina Gilowsky, daughter of Wenzel Andreas, member of the marksmen's club, friend of the family.

¹⁰ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.