

1806

1370. CONSTANZE MOZART TO HER SON CARL THOMAS,¹ MILAN

EXCERPT:

Dear Karl!

[Vienna, 5th March, 1806]

Your wish is and remains the same as mine; I only ask you to press ahead with the work using your powers of understanding, as is fitting for a person of your age! I had long known that music could not be or remain something of indifference to you; [5] but whether you were, or will be, as diligent in it as you should be, I do not know; you must know this better than I. I therefore leave everything to your judgement, and will certainly not advise you against it, only remember always my heartfelt precept, namely that no son of Mozart may be mediocre, in order to avoid bringing more shame than honour

[10] I am sorry that I cannot satisfy your wish regarding a score² for *Asioli*,³ only I do not have a single one at my disposal. . .

¹ BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21st September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31st October, 1858. Grammar school in Vienna; mercantile employment in Livorno approx. 1800-1805, after which he moved to Milan. Started musical studies, but ultimately kept music as a hobby and became a civil servant.

² BD: Constanze finally sent, on 29th October, 1806, "Don Juan [Don Giovanni] in score"; cf. 1374.

³ BD: Bonifazio Asioli (1769-1832), court music director in Milan. Carl Thomas became his pupil on Joseph Haydn's recommendation, and here Carl Thomas obviously wishes to give him a present.