

1808

1380. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Highly honoured sir!

Vienna, 1st June, 1808

I received your honoured communication of 12th May³ safely, and consider it the greatest of pleasures to fulfil your wish, but for this it is absolutely necessary for me to have the collection of my father's *clavier compositions* you published. [5] I therefore request you, in keeping with your gracious proposition, to send these to me as soon as possible, as well as the opening bars of the pieces which, although known to you, did not appear in your collection.

There are no more completely unknown and not yet printed clavier compositions by my father in my hands, [10] for, as far as these are concerned, my mother had already concluded an accord⁴ with the esteemed music director *Andrè* in Offenbach some years ago. I commend myself to your goodwill, and remain, in anticipation of receiving your consignment soon, your most obedient

Son of W. A. Mozart

[15] Do not take it unkindly if I remind you that the opening bars should not be as short as they are on the title pages of your *cahiers*,⁵ there have to be at least 4–5–6 bars, for otherwise I cannot make out the *theme* so easily, just as it will be more difficult for my mother (whom I shall consult assiduously) to recognise.

¹ BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang (1791-1844), Mozart's youngest and second surviving son, virtuoso and composer. 1808-1811 private music teacher in Podkarnia, Galicia.

² BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800.

³ BD: No. 1379a, lost.

⁴ BD: The contract of 8th November, 1799 (No. 1262).

⁵ "cahiers" = volumes of the complete works.