

1293. MARIA ANNA,¹ IMPERIAL BARONESS² VON BERCHTOLD ZU SONNENBURG, TO
BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,³ LEIPZIG

Most nobly born!
Most esteemed sir!

St. Gilgen, 23rd March,
1800.

Your much appreciated communications of 28th Feb. and 7th March reached me safely.⁴ The pleasure which I felt in sending you a manuscript⁵ [5] which I believed that I alone possessed has been brought to nothing by the news that you have already received it from my sister-in-law. It was very unpleasant for me to hear that my brother's widow has acted so ungratefully towards you and has broken the promise⁶ she had made in a very ignoble manner. With this ill-considered deed she has not only damaged herself, [10] but has also done no honour to her husband, for it would no doubt have brought more honour to my brother's reputation if his manuscripts had been published solely and exclusively in your edition of all his works, rather than that they should be published alongside and, as one might easily suspect, faultily, since I know from experience how readily the pirate *Andree*, Offenbach, [15] alters the *compositions* as he likes. Yet it is very good if you have some copies of these manuscripts and include them in your edition: this way those who understand music can easily distinguish the true from the false, and thus my brother's honour will be rescued to some extent.

[20] For your sake alone, I wish that I had indeed retained the scores of his earlier compositions so that I could be of help to you with them, only now I have nothing to send you, other than the 3 sonatas which you requested and 2 pieces which were his first composition for 4 hands.⁷ I do have variations on themes from 2 Dutch folksongs⁸ which were engraved in The Hague [25] and all his earlier engraved sonatas,⁹ but if I can find out, through my correspondence, about some copies of his earlier pieces in Salzburg, I will be pleased to give you information about them. I have just this moment heard that Herr Stadler¹⁰ has handed everything over to Mayr's Bookshop¹¹ [30] and has also been paid properly in cash. I have also received from one of my correspondents the themes¹² which I am sending you herewith; at the same time, however, he writes that if I want to have any more of these pieces of music, he will have them copied for me as a favour, since they all belong to the Prince's music,¹³ but it costs 8 kr. per sheet for the copying. [35] He also writes that there is also an *opera buffa* with Italian text there which has no title, but I know for certain that it bears the

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg.

² "Reichsfreiin".

³ 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.

⁴ BD: No. 1286 and No. 1289a (lost).

⁵ BD: Prelude and fugue for keyboard KV 394 (383a).

⁶ BD: B & H had obviously described Constanze's agreement with André as a breach of contract.

⁷ BD: The "2 pieces" were probably in the so-called "Nannerl-Notenbuch" and seem to be lost. Nannerl's statements in this regard are inconsistent in later letters: cf. Nos. 1313/39; 1365/25; 1369/25; 1377/26. Full discussion in BD VI, pp. 535-6.

⁸ BD: KV 24, 25.

⁹ BD: Listed in Leopold's catalogue of 1768. (KV 6,7; 8,9; 10-15; 26-31.)

¹⁰ BD: Presumably a representative of B & H.

¹¹ "Mairische Buchhandlung" [correctly: "Mayr..."].

¹² BD: Lost.

¹³ "Fürst: Musick". Belonging to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

title *La Finta Semplice*,¹⁴ and the *cantata Il sogno di Scipione*:¹⁵ if I wish to have these as well, he is also willing to have them copied for me.

Write to me at once, therefore, saying whether you desire any of these themes and either of those two theatrical pieces. [40] It will then be a pleasure for me to take care of it. I can also obtain for you the whole opera *La finta giardiniera* in score with German text.¹⁶ You can have them if you desire and keep them as long as you want, as long as I get them back undamaged in the course of time. I ask only for an affirmative answer.

[45] Otherwise I should be very obliged to you if you would be so kind as to let me have the continuation of my brother's works for *clavier*. If, in return, I can be of service to you in anything, I will do so with pleasure.

In expectation of the soonest possible answer, I remain, with true respect,

[50]

Your

most devoted

M: A., Imperial Baroness¹⁷ von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg

¹⁴ BD: KV 51 (46a); cf. No. 0144/66-67.

¹⁵ BD: KV 126.

¹⁶ BD: KV 196; cf. note on No. 1285/119.

¹⁷ "Reichs Freyin".