

1310. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO JOHANN ANTON ANDRÉ,² OFFENBACH

*Herr / Herr Johann André, / music publisher / in / Offenbach / am
Mayn*

Dear Herr *André*,

[Vienna, 10 September, 1800]

I thank you for your letter of 1st *Sept.*, which gave me great pleasure. [5] There is of course a small error in it when you say that the Mozart fragments should belong to you [...] ³ when they appear publicly, whoever has finished them, for then indeed even my son would not be allowed to finish them. But I still have a strong inclination to publish them, or have them published, as fragments for the benefit of all. ⁴ [10] At my death or through other incidents they could easily fall into the hands of a third party and be misused: printing would be a sure way of hindering this. If *André* then wishes to venture into completing them, clearly no-one can prevent you.

The 4 completed fragments⁵ are already on the way, sent off today, sealed with the usual seal, [15] to the chamber singer Fischer⁶ in Berlin, so that your representative can take possession of them on showing your letter showing that he has been entrusted with taking possession of a packet which has already arrived there |: *F.* does not even know what is in it |: once he re-imburses the postal charges. I chose this way because I wish to fulfil your wish speedily and at the same time proceed absolutely securely. [20] For the things to which I have not replied I can hardly provide an answer. In the meantime, if you have doubts, contact me again. Wranitzky⁷ received the documentation a long time ago. From Br. and Härtel I have received nothing.⁸ They have been instructed to send you everything. All that they still have to return are 13 *canons* in original [25] |: otherwise they have received even more in copy |: Caro mio Druk und Schluk,⁹ 1 *sonata* with fragment,¹⁰ a *fugue*, the last 8 bars of which are not by Mozart,¹¹ a *sonata* with *violin* which was unfinished,¹² the *overture* which is in your volume 6,¹³ 2 songs for the opening and closing of the lodge,¹⁴ a fragment *V'amo di core*,¹⁵

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting. BD: Georg Nikolaus Nissen (1761-1826), secretary to the Holstein Legation in Regensburg and then to the Danish Legation in Vienna. Met Constanze at the end of 1797, was either her landlord or cohabitant. Nissen advised Constanze in all business matters from 1798 onwards, especially with the publishers Breitkopf & Härtel and André. The letters, often formulated by him and signed by Constanze, reveal an experienced, if cautious, businessman. Cf. No. 1224 for longer note.

² BD: Johann Anton André (1775-1842), publisher. He was the third son of Johann André (1741-1799), composer, music director (from 1766), founded the music publishing business in Offenbach in 1784. It was thus in Johann Anton's first year as a publisher that the contract was concluded with Constanze (8th November, 1799) regarding the music in Mozart's estate. His full title in 1826 was "Music Director to the Grand Prince of Hessen and Court Councillor at the Princely Court in Isenburg" ["grossfürstlich hessischer Kapellmeister und fürstlich Isenburgischer Hofrath"].

³ BD: Blank space.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1301/29-32.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 1310/14 ff. Fragments made up by Stadler, namely KV 442, 400 (372a), 372, 443 (404b); cf. note on No. 1299/42 ff.

⁶ BD: Kammersänger (bass) Johann Ignaz Ludwig Fischer (1745-1825), the first *Ossin*.

⁷ BD: Paul Wranitzky (1756-1808), composer, music director, musician, Freemason. A friend of Haydn and Beethoven, and almost certainly of Mozart. Witness to Constanze's contract with André.

⁸ BD: Regarding Constanza's instruction to B & H cf. No. 1283/63-64.

⁹ BD: Cf. No. 1292/12.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 1292/14-15, 34-35.

¹¹ BD: KV 401 (375e); cf. No. 1292/20.

¹² BD: Cf. No. 1292/17.

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 1292/19.

¹⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1292/22.

¹⁵ BD: Cf. No. 1292/23.

although this belongs to me if they do not need it, [30] and also, I believe, the song die Trennung.¹⁶ Perhaps you have already received the overture? I am not ready at just this moment to swear that the catalogue above is absolutely accurate. I wish you well with all my heart! May your speculation turn out to be truly profitable for you! *N.*¹⁷ and I send our best compliments.

Constance Mozart

[35] Vienna, 10th Sept., 1800.

Let me know from time to time what you have got back from Leipzig so that I can check it and cross it off.

¹⁶ BD: KV 519; Cf. No. 1243/29, but not in the catalogues Nos. 1270 and 1292.

¹⁷ BD: Nissen.