

1328.\* CONSTANZE MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

[\*BD VI: It is likely that letter No. 1331 should precede No. 1328: in No. 1328 Constanze confirms the receipt of items she requests in lines 9-10 of No. 1331.]

*To / Messrs. Breitkopf and Härtel, / Leipzig*  
Entrusted / to the kindness of / Herr Traeg.<sup>3</sup>

Most highly honoured sirs,

[Vienna, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1801]

Hardly had you placed me under obligation to you by the 6 copies of the *Requiem*<sup>4</sup> as a recompense for my postal expenses, [5] but I already have to thank you again for the postage-free consignment of 18 volumes of the *clavier concertos* Nos. 3, 4 and 5.<sup>5</sup> You must be able to imagine for yourself how much pleasure this continuation of your kindness towards Mozart's widow has given me, and I beg you to be so fair to me as to believe that I am touched by this. [10] How I wish that I for my part could be useful to you!

So Volume 9 of the *clavier sonatas*<sup>6</sup> has not come out yet? Please accept this expression of my gratitude and the sentiments of indebtedness with which I have the honour of being,

Most nobly born sirs,

Your most devoted servant

Constanze Mozart

[15]

Vienna, 12<sup>th</sup> Febr., 1801.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. 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. note No. 1224.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Music seller and publisher in Vienna, representative for B & H.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Cf. Nos. 1307/6 ff.; 1319/6 ff.; 1329/25 ff.

<sup>5</sup> BD: KV 459, 450, 415 (387b).

<sup>6</sup> BD: Containing "*V Sonates pour le Pianoforte avec l'accompagnement d'un violon*", which appeared before the end of 1801.