

0848. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,<sup>1</sup> ST. GILGEN

*À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg /née de Mozart / à Salzburg*  
To be delivered to the Tanzmeisterhaus<sup>2</sup>

Vienna – Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>  
Febr., 1785

The two of you will have received my first letter,<sup>3</sup> – [5] I thought that the cold of the journey had left my body entirely, [5] but yesterday evening I noticed pains in the left thigh, and before I got into bed, I found that there really was *rheumatism* there. I accordingly had to take burdock oil tea and did not get up until half past 1 to eat at midday, at which the younger sister of my daughter-in-law, *Ms.<sup>lle</sup> Sophia*,<sup>4</sup> kept me company [10] and indeed is still with me now, at 8 o'clock in the evening, because your brother, his wife and Heinrich<sup>5</sup> ate with Herr von Trattern<sup>6</sup> at midday, but I unfortunately had to send my excuses: but in the evening your brother is at a grand *concert* at *Count Cizi's*,<sup>7</sup> where Herr *Lebrun* and his wife<sup>8</sup> will perform for the first time; [15] but your sister-in-law and *Marchand* are at the *concert* at Herr von Ployer's, our *agent*.<sup>9</sup> Today it will as usual no doubt be 1 o'clock again before we get to bed. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, on Thursday, we ate in the home of your brother's mother-in-law, Frau Weber, there were only 4 of us: mother Weber<sup>10</sup> and her daughter *Sophie*,<sup>11</sup> for the eldest daughter<sup>12</sup> is in Gratz. I must tell you that the food was not too much and not too little, [20] at the same time cooked incomparably: the roast was a fine, large *pheasant*, – everything altogether outstandingly prepared. On Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> we dined at young *Stephani's*,<sup>13</sup> where there was no-one except the 4 of us,<sup>14</sup> then Herr *Le brun*,<sup>15</sup> his wife, *Carl Cannabich*<sup>16</sup> and a clergyman.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as "Frau Tochter" [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as "Herr Sohn" [esteemed son].

<sup>2</sup> "The dancing-master's house": BD: The nickname of the house on the Hannibalplatz where the Mozart family had lived since 1773 and where Leopold now finds himself alone after Nannerl's marriage.

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0847.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Sophie (\* c. 1769.1824), sister of Constanze, actress at the Burgtheater 1780/81, married Jakob Kaibel, choir director at Diakovar cathedral in Slovenia. Lived with her sister in Salzburg after the death of Nissen.

<sup>5</sup> BD: When Leopold and Nannerl returned from Munich on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1781, they took with them Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe ("Gretl") joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Johann Thomas Trattner (1717-1798). When Mozart first came to Vienna, he was already the owner of several bookshops and printing works in and around Vienna. With the Trattnerhof, he erected one of the most impressive buildings of the period in Vienna. Mozart lived there between January and September, 1784. Trattner's wife Theresia took keyboard lessons from Mozart. The Trattners were on several occasions godparents of Mozart's children.

<sup>7</sup> "Graf Cizi". BD: Probably Karl, Count [Graf] Zichy von Vásonykö, court counsellor [Hofrat] in Vienna, spouse of Mozart's pupil Anna Maria Zichy. He appeared on Mozart's subscription list of 1784.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), likewise employed in the court music.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Gottfried Ignaz (von from 1780 on) Ployer, a high official. For his daughter, Barbara Ployer, Mozart composed the concertos KV 449 and 453 and played with her in numerous private concerts.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Maria Cäcilia Weber, née Stamm (1727-1793), married Franz Fridolin Weber in 1756.

<sup>11</sup> BD: = "Sophia" above.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Josepha Weber (1758-1819), married the violinist Franz Hofer, a friend of Mozart's, in 1788. The first "Queen of the Night".

<sup>13</sup> BD: (Johann) Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800), ("the Younger"), studied law, became a soldier, became member of the Burgtheater company, Vienna, in 1769. At least 32 of his stage works were put on there in 393 performances between 1776 and 1846.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Wolfgang, Constanze, Leopold and Heinrich Marchand.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), likewise employed in the court music.

Now, as a preliminary remark, here nobody thinks of keeping a fast-day. Nothing but meat dishes were served, [25] and the pheasant was in cabbage as a side dish, the rest was princely, at the end oysters, the most splendid *sweetmeats*, and not to forget numerous *bottles of champagne*. *Coffee* everywhere, – that goes without saying. From there we drove to your brother's 2<sup>nd</sup> *concert*<sup>17</sup> in the Mehlgrube<sup>18</sup> at 7 o'clock, which was splendid once again. *Henry*<sup>19</sup> played a *violin concerto*. [30] Herr *Stephani* immediately enquired about you once again, and we could not stop talking about the old stories. No-one has served a fast-day dish here yet. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, yesterday, we were at a meal with 21 guests given by the esteemed actor Miller.<sup>20</sup> That too was splendid, but not so exaggerated. He must have a large apartment, because he has 8 children, and must pay 700 florins per year for it. [35] Herr *Stephani* has a small *apartment*, – but pays 500 florins for it because it is on the Michaelerplatz close to the theatre. – On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> there are 2 *concerts* in the theatre given by Herr *Lebrun* and his wife. Even on the 18<sup>th</sup> there was not a single *box* more to be had for the first *concert*. These people will take in terrifying amounts of money.<sup>21</sup> – Now I come to your 2<sup>nd</sup> letter,<sup>22</sup> [40] since the first reached your brother just a few minutes before our arrival. I am absolutely horrified that your *fortepiano* is in such a bad state. – At the moment there is nothing that can be done about it, and God knows when and where Egedacher<sup>23</sup> will find a journeyman. There is little hope of this, or none at all. Meanwhile make efforts to get my large clavichord sent out to you. [45] If the clerical Herr Egedacher<sup>24</sup> tunes it well in Salzburg, it will not go out of tune so easily. Only it must be covered securely and well with straw before being moved: if only there were someone who send it off safely in Salzburg. It has to be lifted off the stand: one lays the stand on top of the lid, there is nothing to it. In short! [50] Get it out there! as soon as you want to and can. Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This morning I took burdock root tea once again and did not get up until half past 10. Herr and *Md.<sup>me</sup> Lebrun* visited us until half past 1. At 2 o'clock we went for our midday meal, as every day. Now, as I write this, it is already 5 o'clock again, it is snowing quite mercilessly, and there is an astonishing wind [55] which is blowing lamentably into every corner of this room, which is heated so poorly anyway. I have not yet visited a single person because I have never been out of the house on foot except to hear Mass in St. Stephan's, which is very near. I am so deterred by the cold winds that I certainly will not travel home until milder weather comes. I am very anxious about how the *concert* for Heinrich will go:<sup>25</sup> [60] first of all, I found when I heard him in Munich that he had got worse rather than better, and his *violin* is of no great quality. Secondly, the 2 *concerts* by *Le Brun*,<sup>26</sup> which are attracting terrifying numbers, precede his. If I can bring Herr *Lebrun* to play something at *Marchand's concert*, the matter may yet turn out well; [65] otherwise it is risky, because the costs alone amount to almost 200 florins. Enough! We will see how it turns out. In the meantime I have met acquaintances at *concerts*: for

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<sup>16</sup> BD: Karl Konrad Cannabich (1771-1806), violinist, son and successor of Christian Cannabich, director of the court music first in Mannheim and then in Munich.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0840/16. The subscription concerts took place on 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1785.

<sup>18</sup> BD: A large house which passed into municipal ownership and was for a long time used for storage and regulation of flour. It was later used for balls and concerts.

<sup>19</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Johann Heinrich Friedrich Müller (1738-1815), originally a drayman, was a playwright and agent for the National Theatre. All five of his children became members of the Burgtheater.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0850/16-17.

<sup>22</sup> BD: No. 0847a, lost.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher (†14<sup>th</sup> June, 1785), the Royal Organ Builder and therefore also responsible for tuning and maintenance of the keyboard instruments; usually referred to in the letters as "old Egedacher".

<sup>24</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the "old man", the court organ builder.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), likewise employed in the court music.

example, *Baron van Swieten*,<sup>27</sup> whom I also visited in his home, the 2 sisters *Countess Thun*<sup>28</sup> and *Wallenstein*.<sup>29</sup> A *Baron Freyberg*;<sup>30</sup> *Baron Nagl*;<sup>31</sup> the Prussian representative *Herr von Jacobi*;<sup>32</sup> [70] *Benedict Edelbach*;<sup>33</sup> *Herr von Sonnenfels* and his wife.<sup>34</sup> *Herr Starzer*,<sup>35</sup> *Herr Aspelmayr*,<sup>36</sup> *Prince Baar*;<sup>37</sup> *Prince Auersperg*;<sup>38</sup> and various others who no longer come to mind. – The marriage of the administrator at the *Johannsspital*<sup>39</sup> seems to me not infelicitous. But *Katherl*<sup>40</sup> allowing herself to be teased over the court apothecary<sup>41</sup> is certainly something familiar, – her ambitions extend to all widowers: [75] – I would wish it for her with my whole heart, the point is that he would not be too good for her. Your brother's *Carl*<sup>42</sup> is completely well again. We all kiss you both wholeheartedly, your worthy sister-in-law, her worthy mother and sister likewise commend themselves. I must tell my esteemed son<sup>43</sup> confidentially that I gathered from a conversation here that his esteemed brother<sup>44</sup> treats his wife most execrably here, and is even said to regale her with blows. Now I kiss you both and the children from the heart once again, and am as always your sincere father,

Mozart

You can easily imagine the story of your cousin<sup>45</sup> in Augspurg, a cathedral canon filled her cup of happiness. – As soon as I have time I will write a hellish letter from here to Augspurg,

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<sup>27</sup> BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had educational responsibilities in Vienna. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn's "Seven Last Words" and "The Seasons". Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed music himself.

<sup>28</sup> "Gräfin Thun". BD: Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun-Hohenstein (1747-1800), Vienna, appears frequently in the letters as a patroness of Mozart, although only until 1782. Was also acquainted with Baron van Swieten.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Marie (Anna) Elisabeth, Countess [Gräfin] Waldstein (1743-1791), the younger sister of Marie Wilhelmina, Countess [Gräfin] Thun.

<sup>30</sup> BD: Not identified.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Probably Joseph Anton von Nagel, royal mathematician and cartographer, father of Frau Theresia von Trattner (cf. note on No. 0644/34).

<sup>32</sup> BD: Konstans Philipp Wilhelm Jacobi (from 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1786 "von", from 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1788) Baron [Freiherr] von Kloest (1745-1816), diplomatic representative of Prussia in Vienna 1773-1792, in London 1792-1816. One of the subscribers to Mozart's Wednesday concerts in 1784, and arranged for works from Mozart's estate to be bought for King Friedrich Wilhelm II in 1792.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Benedikt Schlossgängl von Edlenbach (\*1748), son of the teacher of law in Salzburg.

<sup>34</sup> BD: Joseph, Baron [Freiherr] von Sonnenfels (1733-1817), professor of jurisprudence and Freemason.

<sup>35</sup> BD: Joseph Starzer (1726-1787), most notably a ballet composer in Vienna, often cooperating with Noverre.

<sup>36</sup> BD: Franz Aspelmayr (1728-1786), court musician, ballet composer at the Italian opera in Vienna.

<sup>37</sup> "Fürst Baar". BD: Wenzel Johann, Prince [Fürst] Paar (1719-1792), postmaster of the Hereditary Lands, received the title of Fürst in 1769. The Mozarts had known him since 1762.

<sup>38</sup> "Fürst Auersperg". BD: Karl, Prince Auersperg (1750-1822), officer, finally field-marshal lieutenant, Knight of the Order of Maria Theresia. One of the subscribers listed in No. 0780(3).

<sup>39</sup> BD: Johann Paul Wölf(f), administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital ["St John's Hospital"] close to Salzburg. He was a widower and had two sons and one daughter.

<sup>40</sup> BD: "Katherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, court surgeon, member of the airgun club, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

<sup>41</sup> BD: Nikolaus Wernhammer.

<sup>42</sup> BD: Mozart's second child, Carl Thomas, was born on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1784. He was the longest-lived member of the family, dying in Milan on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1858.

<sup>43</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>44</sup> BD: Johann Nepomuk Martin von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1737-1798), official in the Austrian diplomatic service and then in the regional government [Landesregierung] of Lower Austria, for which he resided in Vienna.

<sup>45</sup> BD: Mozart's cousin in Augspurg, Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in Mozart's letters as the "Bäsele" ["little cousin"].

[85] as if I had heard about it in Vienna. The funniest thing about it all is – that all the presents that she received and which everyone noticed, all, all of them were sent to her by her *uncle* in Salzburg. – What an honour for me! –