

1450. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO ARTARIA & CO.,<sup>2</sup> VIENNA

To Messrs. / *Artaria et Compag* / Art and Music dealers /  
in / Vienna / Kohlmarkt No. 1151

Honoured Sir!

Lemberg, the 11<sup>th</sup> November 832

I have the honour of informing you that the *aria*<sup>3</sup> which you were so kind as to show me during my last day in Vienna [5] is by all appearances of my father's composing. At least, I find no reasonable grounds for doubting it, for I found the words of the *aria* and of the preceding recitative in the printed text book for the *opera Lucio Silla*, which my father composed for the *Regio-Ducal Teatro di Milano*<sup>4</sup> in 1773 | thus in his 17<sup>th</sup> year |. [10] The poetry is by Herr *De Gamera*,<sup>5</sup> at that time theatre poet, and this *aria* forms the close of the fifth *scene* in the second *act*. If it might be of interest to you to look into the book yourself, I will happily send it to you for a short time, yet I would ask for it to be sent back as soon as possible, since I am keeping it as a rarity. [15] I also have the text book for the *opera Mitridate, Re di Ponto*, which Mozart composed two years previously for the same theatre. In taking this opportunity to ask you to publish my songs<sup>6</sup> soon, I have the honour of signing myself your most obedient

W A Mozart

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang (1791-1844), Mozart's younger and second surviving son, virtuoso and composer. 1808-1811 private music teacher in Podkarnia, Galicia. He adopted the practice of calling himself Wolfgang Amadeus (cf. the signature).

<sup>2</sup> BD: The cousins Carlo (1747-1808) and Francesco Artaria (1744-1808) opened an art dealership in Vienna in 1770, expanding this to include maps and music in 1775. From 1776 onwards, they offered the latest chamber music and orchestral works. The success of their music sales led them to start their own publishing business in 1778, with which they simultaneously introduced engraving music on zinc plates to Vienna.

<sup>3</sup> BD: According to the description, this must be Giunia's aria "*Parto, m'affretto*" (No. 16) along with the preceding recitative No. 15 from the opera *Lucio Silla* KV 135. Mozart called it "de Amici's aria"; Aloisia Weber sang it in the concert in Mannheim mentioned in the letter of 13 February 1778 (No. 0423/72, 79-80) before Mozart left for Paris.

<sup>4</sup> = Royal Ducal Theatre in Milan.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Giovanni de Gamera (1743-1803).

<sup>6</sup> BD: Very possibly op. 27, *Drey deutsche Lieder*, with piano accompaniment, dedicated to Pauline Anna Milder Hauptmann (1785-1838).