

1255. CONSTANZE MOZART<sup>1</sup> TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,<sup>2</sup> LEIPZIG

Most highly honoured sirs,

Vienna, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1799.

Among the large-scale works left by my husband there is a German singspiel,<sup>3</sup> written approximately at the end of the 70s, without a title, [5] in which the following persons appear:

*Gomaz. Zaide. Alazim. Sultan. Zaram. Soliman. Osmin.* Couldn't you find out for me in some other way (as a last resort by the favour of including this question in your journal) what the title is and where I can find the text for it?<sup>4</sup> This information will be of service to me in judging whether it is complete, of which I am not sure at the moment. [10] *Abbé Stadler*<sup>5</sup> says it is quite incomparable.

Since my last letter, I have only found one more aria, which you could use as a song according to your purposes,<sup>6</sup> and no more are to be hoped for because the earlier operas are simply brimming over with *bravura* arias.

[15] Be so kind as to tell me whether it will be a very long time yet before you can use the bigger arias. If that were the case, I would be unreservedly eager to publish them myself. I consider it my duty to point this out to you provisionally and conditionally. If you do not need them until much later, the resulting difference is of course only to your advantage, [20] for once they have been published they cost you nothing.

With my next packet I will entrust you with all kinds of little fragments. You can keep in their entirety whichever of them are useful to you in one way or another, at least perhaps as a supplement to your journal, and decide on a payment for me yourselves. [25] But whatever you do not need I would ask you to return to me again. I have such a quantity of started and laid-out pieces for *clavier* and other pieces, which could be used by a skilled man and worked out.

./ Anecdotes are enclosed.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,  
your most obedient servant

[30]

Constance Mozart

It is up to you to dress up the anecdotes, which are hastily written, in other garments.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: 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> BD: Cf. note on No. 1252/33.

<sup>4</sup> BD: B & H had the question published in the *Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung*, second year, no. IV (Dec. 1799), col. 21, but no clarification was forthcoming.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Baptised Johann Karl Dominik Stadler (1748-1833), monk, priest, abbot. From 1796 entirely dedicated to music. Cf. note on No. 1224/29.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1252/3 ff. and No. 1256/2 ff.