



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA EDUCATION

**Letter from Mozart Referencing *The Magic Flute***  
Source: *Mozart's Letters, Mozart's Life* by Robert Spaethling

*To his wife, in Baden*

*Vienna, June 11, 1791*

Ma très chère Epouse!—

Criés avec moi contre mon mauvais sort!—Mad<sup>elle</sup> Kirchgessner<sup>109</sup> ne donne pas son Academie Lundi!—par consequent j'aurais pu vous posséder, ma chère, tout ce jour de Dimanche—mercredi je viendrai sûrement.<sup>110</sup>—

I must hurry because it's already a quarter to 7—and the mail coach leaves at 7 o'clock—take care when you bathe so that you don't slip and fall, and don't do anything alone—also, if I were you, I would skip a day once in a while, don't go into this thing too intensely. I hope someone was able to keep you company during the night.—What I wouldn't give to be able to join you in Baden instead of sitting around here.—Out of sheer boredom I composed an aria for my opera today.<sup>111</sup> I got up at half past four this morning—and I managed to open up my clock—I do hope you're impressed!—but I wasn't able to wind it up, because I didn't have the key; isn't that a sad story?—schlumba!—now here's another word that makes you Think—at any rate, I wound up the *big clock* instead. Adieu—My Love!—today I'll be eating at Puchberg's—I kiss you 1000 times and say, while thinking of you: “Death and Despair were his Reward!”<sup>112</sup>

Your husband, who loves you tenderly forever and ever,  
W. A. Mozart.

109. Maria Anna Antonia Kirchgäßner was a blind performer on the glass harmonica. Mozart, who had been familiar with the instrument ever since 1764, when he heard Marianne Davies in London, had written the Adagio in C, K. 356, for Kirchgäßner and, more recently, the Adagio and Rondo in C minor for Glass Harmonica, Flute, Oboe, Viola, and Cello, K. 617. Kirchgäßner had given a concert in Vienna on June 10, but the one Mozart is referring to was postponed to August 19; at that time K. 617 was performed.

110. “Cry with me against my fate!—Mad<sup>e</sup> is not having her concert on Monday!—So I could have been with you all day Sunday—Tuesday I shall be there for sure.”

111. *Die Zauberflöte*.

112. “Tod und Verzweiflung war sein Lohn,” duet from *Die Zauberflöte*, act 2, scene 3.