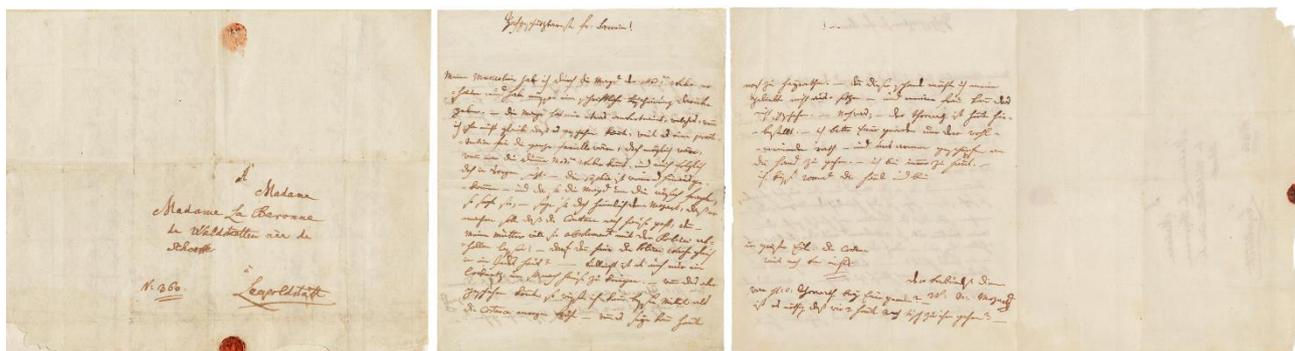


# CHRISTIE'S

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## Christie's presents a dramatic letter from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Baroness von Waldstätten during CLASSIC WEEK

**Autograph letter by the 26-year old Mozart recounting the circumstances immediately preceding his marriage to Constanze Weber**



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791), Autograph letter, signed, in German, (Vienna, shortly before 4 August 1782).

Estimate: £300,000–500,000/€350,000-570,000

**LONDON** – On 6 July 2023, Christie's Classic Week *Exceptional Sale* will present an autograph letter from one of the world's greatest composers Mozart (1756-1791) to his close friend Baroness von Waldstätten. The letter (estimate: £300,000–500,000) by 26-year old Mozart declares that he will need to get married within two days in order to save his future wife from the scandal of being dragged out of his house by the police. The autograph letter in Mozart's hand, in German, comprises two pages and was written in the summer of 1782 whilst in Vienna.

At the time the letter was written, Constanze was known to be cohabiting under the same roof as Mozart, which prompted her mother, Cäcilia Weber, to send in the police to reclaim her daughter from Mozart's house to save her reputation. This prompted Mozart to declare the only solution is for him to marry Constanze the next day – or indeed the same day if at all possible. The couple went on to marry on 4 August 1782.

**Thomas Venning, Head of Christie's Books & Manuscripts, London:** *"Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most influential and prolific composers of all time, and we are delighted to unveil such a personal letter to the world. Mozart letters are scarce at auction, and it is hard to think of any iconic historical figure where you have an equivalent unfiltered insight into such an important and private moment. The letter has always been in private collections, and has not been seen by the public or scholars since 1989. Christie's offered the most recent autograph letter and manuscript by Mozart sold at auction, and we are proud to follow that with such an exciting letter and opportunity for Mozart aficionados worldwide."*

Mozart's arrival in Vienna in 1781 was a turning point in his professional and personal life, representing the moment in which he chose an independent career making money through compositions, performances and teaching over the security of proximity to his father and his privileged position at the Salzburg court. He was relying on a handful of pupils to sustain a living at this time, continuing to teach throughout the 1780s as a supplement to the income from his performances and publications. This moment coincides with the completion of the opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* ("The Abduction from the Seraglio"), which premiered on 16 July 1782 and achieved considerable success. The work was soon being performed throughout German-speaking Europe, establishing Mozart's reputation as a composer.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's autograph letter will appear as a lead lot in the *Exceptional Sale*, part of Christie's Classic Week in London, on 6 July 2023.

An Autograph music manuscript by Mozart for the opening 15 bars of the second movement ('Andante') of the Serenade in D major for orchestra, sold at Christie's London in [December 2022](#)

An Autograph letter by Mozart signed to his father, sold at Christie's New York in [June 2017](#)

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### About Christie's

- Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).
- Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's \*Salvator Mundi\*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's \*Shot Sage Blue Marilyn\*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' \*Rabbit\*](#), 2019). Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's \*Everydays\*](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.
- Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability by reducing our carbon emissions by 50% and pledging to be net zero by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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*\* Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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