

Edge, Dexter. 2015. "Johann Böhm and *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg (1 May 1780)." In: [Mozart: New Documents](#), edited by Dexter Edge and David Black. First published 13 May 2015; updated 1 Jul 2025. [[direct link](#)]

## Johann Böhm and *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg (1 May 1780)

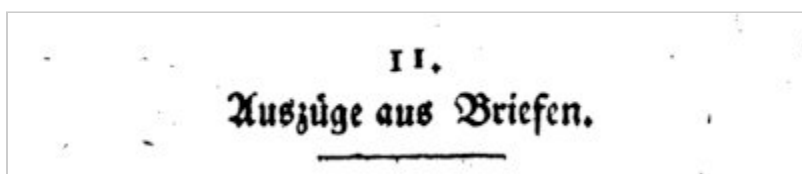
Dexter Edge

*Theater-Journal für Deutschland*, 17. Stück. Gotha: Carl Wilhelm Ettinger

[101]

II.

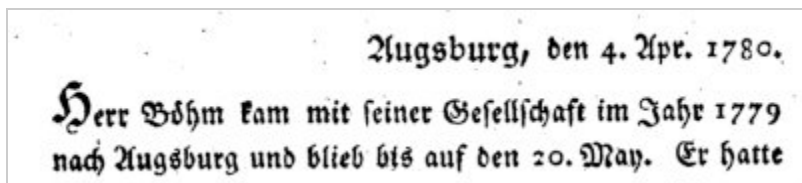
Auszüge aus Briefen. [...]



[103]

Augsburg, den 4. Apr. 1780. [sic]

Herr Böhm kam mit seiner Gesellschaft im Jahr 1779  
nach Augsburg und blieb bis auf den 20. May. [...]



[105]

Den 1. May die verstellte Gärtnerin, Singsp. Ball.  
Belustigung im Garten der Chythere. [...]



[106]

Den 17. May die verstellte Gärtnerin, engl. Ballet.



## Commentary

Mozart's opera buffa *La finta giardiniera* was first performed in the Salvatortheater in Munich on Fri, 13 Jan 1775. It has long been generally accepted that Mozart helped adapt the opera for a German translation a few years later, apparently at the behest of Johann Böhm, whose traveling theater company played in Salzburg in 1779 and 1780. The earliest documented performance of the German version, under the title *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*, was given by Böhm's company in Augsburg on 1 May 1780; the company performed the opera a second time in Augsburg, most likely (as we shall see) on 18 May, rather than 17 May as stated in the extract from the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* transcribed above.

Oddly, the primary documentation for these performances does not appear in *Dokumente* or its supplements—in fact, several documents bearing on the early history of *La finta giardiniera* and its German adaptation are missing from standard reference works. Most of the missing documents have been cited elsewhere in the Mozart literature (albeit sometimes in publications that were hard to find in an era before Google Books), sometimes already in the nineteenth century. Yet perhaps because the primary documents have not been readily available, the secondary literature on *La finta giardiniera* and its adaptation as *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* has been something of an echo chamber, with scholars citing previous scholars rather than primary sources, thereby perpetuating several minor errors, omissions, and unexplained inconsistencies in the literature on the opera. The result is a bibliographical tangle that this commentary (and the one for [2 Apr 1782](#)) will attempt to unravel. A reconsideration of the primary documents will not lead to dramatic new revelations about the opera and its history, but it will help clarify the opera's context and reception during Mozart's lifetime, correct a number of errors, and suggest new readings of the documentary evidence. Along the way, a few new documents will be added to that body of evidence.

## Table of Contents

1. [La finta giardiniera in Munich, 1775](#)
2. [Johann Böhm](#)
3. [Elias and Peter Vogt](#)
4. [Böhm's first engagement in Salzburg \(6 Apr to 2 Jun 1779\)](#)
5. [Böhm's first engagement in Augsburg \(11 Jun to 1 Sep 1779\)](#)
6. [Böhm's second engagement in Salzburg \(early Sep 1779 to 28 Feb 1780\)](#)
7. [Böhm's second engagement in Augsburg \(28 Mar to 19 May 1780\)](#)
8. [Böhm in Ulm, Nuremberg, and Frankfurt \(1780\)](#)
9. [Böhm and Mozart](#)

[Notes](#)

[Bibliography](#)

## *La finta giardiniera* in Munich, 1775 (↑)

The date of the first performance of *La finta giardiniera* is known from two documents: a letter that Mozart wrote to his mother the day after the premiere, describing the opera's enthusiastic reception (*Briefe*, ii:516–17); and a report by Christian Gottlieb Unger, counselor (Legationsrat) of the Saxon legation in Bavaria. (On the notion that Unger's first names were "Johann Friedrich," see the *Notes* below.) Otto Erich Deutsch included Unger's report in *Dokumente* (135), but his transcription is copied (not quite perfectly) from the third edition of Jahn's biography of Mozart, edited by Hermann Deiters ([Jahn 1889, i:165](#)). In fact, it was Jahn himself who first added Unger's report to a revised second edition of his Mozart biography ([Jahn 1867, 148](#)), citing as his source Carl von Weber's 1857 biography of Maria Antonia Walpurgis ([Weber 1857, ii:43–44](#)). But Jahn introduced an error in his reproduction of Weber's transcription, an error that Deiters did not correct (and thus Deutsch replicated), and he omitted a final sentence that is consequently also missing from Deiters and Deutsch. Weber's transcription reads:

Vendredi [13 Jan] LL. AA. RR. EE. assisterent à la premiere representation de l'opera buffa "la finta giardiniera": la musique fut applaudie generalement: elle est du jeune Mozart de Saltzbourg, qui se trouve actuellement ici. C'est le même qui à l'age de 8 ans a été en Angleterre et ailleurs pour se faire entendre sur le clavecin qu'il touche superieurement bien. Il a actuellement 17 ou 18 ans.

"LL. AA. RR. EE." abbreviates the honorific "Leurs Altesses Royales et Electorales," referring here to Bavarian Elector [Maximilian III Joseph](#), his wife, and his sister [Maria Antonia Walpurgis](#), widow of the Elector of Saxony, Friedrich Christian (d. 1763), and regent for their underage son, Friedrich August (b. 1750). Max III Joseph's wife, [Maria Anna Sophia](#) of Saxony, was the sister of Maria Antonia's late husband. Maria Antonia Walpurgis was on an extended visit to her brother's court in Munich at the time of the premiere of *La finta giardiniera*; Mozart refers to both women in a letter to his mother the day after the premiere:

S: Durchlaucht die Churfürstin, und die verwitwete, |: welche mir vis à vis waren :| sagten mir auch bravo [*Briefe*, i:516]

Her Serenity the Electress [Maria Anna Sophia], and the widowed one [Maria Antonia Walpurgis] (who were sitting across from me) also said 'bravo' to me.

Maria Antonia Walpurgis was herself an accomplished composer. Although she officially resided in Dresden, she often visited her brother in Munich; she had most recently come to Munich in Feb 1774. On 2 Jul she suffered a grave accident there, when the press of a crowd toppled a barrier, breaking her left leg so badly that the bone pierced the skin (regarding her stay in Munich and the accident, see [Weber 1857, ii:29–45](#)). She spent her long convalescence in Munich and Nymphenburg Palace, making her first public appearance in a wheelchair on 4 Sep 1774, and her

first post-accident visit to the theater in Munich on 22 Sep. Unger described the reaction of the audience to her return:

... à son apparition toute la salle de spectacle retentit d'applaudissements et de claquemens des mains, expression de joye que S. A. R. daigna agréer fort gracieusement ... [Weber 1857, ii:31]

Maria Antonia did not return to Dresden until 1 Jul 1775.

Unger was meticulous in his use of abbreviated honorifics, a point that has been overlooked in the Mozart literature. He used "LL. AA. EE." ("Leurs Altesses Electorales") to refer to Elector Maximilian III Joseph and his wife, employing the eighteenth-century convention of doubling the letters of an abbreviation to indicate more than one person. Unger used "S. A. R." ("Son Altesse Royale") to refer to Maria Antonia Walpurgis alone; she was presumably "royale" because her late husband was the third son of [King August III of Poland](#), the "R" thus trumping the "E" in her case. When Maria Antonia was in the company of Max III Joseph and his wife, Unger wrote "LL. AA. RR. EE." ("Leurs Altesses Royales Electorales") or "LL. AA. EE. RR." (it is unclear if he intended a difference between the two orderings). But Jahn, in copying Weber's transcription of Unger's report, gives "L. A. R. E." (as does Deutsch, copying Jahn by way of Deiters), instead of "LL. AA. RR. EE.", as it actually appears in Weber's transcription, presumably made directly from Unger's original. In Unger's usage, "L. A. R. E." is nonsensical: the "L" stands for "Leurs" ("Their"), which Unger used only in abbreviations referring to more than one person, always doubling the letters.

Jahn (and thus Deutsch) unaccountably omits the final sentence from Weber's transcription of Unger's entry: "Il a actuellement 17 ou 18 ans." Unger was, in fact, correct: Mozart was just about to turn 19 at the time of the premiere of *La finta giardiniera*, but was still 18 on 13 Jan 1775.

Unger also noted in his diary the second performance of Mozart's opera on Thu, 2 Feb 1775, as well as the third and final one on Thu, 2 Mar 1775; these entries are given in the foreword to the edition of *La finta giardiniera* in the *Neue Mozart-Ausgabe* (NMA II/5/8/1), drawing on an article by Robert Münster (Münster 1975; note, however, that the transcriptions in Münster and the NMA are not identical; see the *Notes* below). The two diary entries do not appear in the supplements to *Dokumente* (which postdate Münster's article), even though they are the only known sources for the dates of the second and third performances of *La finta giardiniera*.

Regarding the performance on 2 Feb, Unger writes:

LL. AA. SS. EE. et RR. [...] se trouvèrent le soir à l'accademie en masque où l'opéra bouffà la finta giardiniera fut représenté et suivi d'un ballet pantomime. S.A.S. l'Electeur Palatin, qu s'était trouvé également à ce spectacle, partit ici le meme jour après le souper pour s'en retourner à Manheim. [Münster 1975, 31; NMA II/5/8/1, xiii]

Here, the added "SS." in the honorific stands for "Sérénissimes," thus approximately "Their Highnesses Most Serene, Electoral, and Royal." (The abbreviation "LL. AA. SS. EE. et RR." seems to have been rare; in a Google search, it turns up only in references to Unger's diary.) The "Electeur Palatin" was [Karl Theodor](#), the Palatine Elector, who succeeded Maximilian III Joseph as Elector and Duke of Bavaria following Max's death in 1777. Unger probably added the "SS." to the abbreviated honorific because of the presence of Karl Theodor, whom Unger refers to individually as "S. A. S." ("Son Altesse Sérénissime", "His Most Serene Highness").

Regarding the third and final performance of *La finta giardiniera* on 2 Mar, Unger writes:

Jeudi LL. AA. SS. EE. et RR. se trouvèrent le soir à la représentation de l'opéra buffa la finta giardiniera de la composition de Mozart, suivi du ballet des braconniers. [Münster 1975, 33; *NMA* II/5/8/1, xiii]

"Jeudi" (Thursday) refers to 2 Mar 1775. It is not entirely clear in this case to whom the "S S." refers in Unger's abbreviation, as Karl Theodor had remained in Munich for only a few days, departing early in the morning following the second performance of *La finta giardiniera* on 2 Feb. However, the most important point to be derived from Unger's abbreviations is that Max III Joseph, very likely also his wife, and his sister Maria Antonia Walpurgis attended all three performances of the opera (as did the composer himself).

## Johann Böhm (↑)

The adaptation of *La finta giardiniera* as a German singspiel seems to have been instigated by Johann Böhm (d. 1792), although the evidence is circumstantial, rather than direct: he had motive (he needed repertory, particularly Italian) and opportunity (he was in Salzburg for two extended periods between Easter 1779 and Lent 1780)—and we know, because his company performed it, that he did in fact end up with a performable German version of Mozart's opera. But there is no documentary smoking gun connecting Mozart and Böhm in the planning and creation of that adaptation.

Böhm's early life remains obscure; several standard references say that he was born in Upper Austria around 1740, but this seems to be just a guess. His activities as an actor and director are first attested in Brünn (Brno) around 1770, when he took over the theatrical company of Kajetan von Schaumberg, a company in which he was a performer. According to the *Chronologie des deutschen Theaters* ([Schmid 1775, 304–5](#)):

Kajetan von Schaumberg kam als Mahler nach Brünn, und verfertigte auf Kosten der Stadt verschiedenen Dekorationen. Auf Antrieb einiger Vornehmen unternahm er es Pantomen aufzuführen. Als diese zu einförmig wurden [*sic*], brachte er verschiedne Subjekte für das

extemporirte Theater zusammen, die es dennoch wagten mit unter Minna und Romeo zu spielen. Er übergab im September [1770] die Direktion seinem bisherigen Schauspieler Böhm, welcher durch regelmäßige Stücke und Singspiele wenigstens die gröbsten Burlesken zu verdrängen suchte. — Als im Oktober Herr und Madam Waizhofer von Wien zu diesem Theater kamen, drangen sie auf die Abschaffung alles Extemporirens.

Kajetan von Schaumberg came to Brünn as a painter, and produced various stage sets at the cost of the city. At the urging of several of the nobility he undertook to perform pantomimes. When these became too monotonous, he brought together various individuals for improvised theater, who then ventured to play, among others, Minna [von Barnhelm] and Romeo [und Julie]. In September 1770 he transferred direction of his former actors to Böhm, who, through regular plays and singspiels, sought to drive out at least the coarsest burlesques. — When Herr and Madame Waizhofer came to this theater from Vienna in October, they insisted on the elimination of all improvisation.

The short-lived *Theaterwochenblatt für Salzburg* noted in its issue of 7 Feb 1776 (no. 24, 279–80):

Brün. Die Hauptstadt in Mähren hat seit 1722 immer Schauspiel. Alle Truppen hier zu merken, die da gespielt haben, wäre zu weitläufig *[sic]*. So viel Jahre, so viel Prinzipale, meistens gar schlechte. 1732 wurde das Theater erbaut. 1770 übernahm's Kajetan von Schaumberg, verschrieb sich Leute; unter diesen waren die merkwürdigsten Herr Waizenhofer *[sic]* und H. Böhm, welcher letztere in dem nämlichen Jahr die Direktion und 1771 die Entreprise übernahm, welche bis jetzt noch unter einem jährlichen schadloshaltenden Abonnement dauert. Die besten Schauspieler sind: H. u. M. Böhm, H. u. M. Waizenhofer, H. u. M. Unger. Es wird in Brün seit Anfang des Jahrs 1771 gar nicht mehr extemporiert. Die besten Stücke wer=



den gegeben. Die Stärke der Gesellschaft besteht im Singspiel. — —

Brünn. The capital of Moravia has had theater continuously since 1722. It would be excessive to note here all the troupes that have played there. So many years, so many directors, mostly very bad. The theater was built in 1732. Kajetan von Schaumberg took it over in 1770, engaged personnel; among these the most noteworthy were Herr Waizhofer and Herr Böhm, the latter who took over direction that same year and in 1771 the enterprise, which has persisted up to the present under an annual subscription with guaranteed refunds. The best actors are: Herr and Madame Böhm, Herr and Madame Waizhofer, Herr and Madame Unger. There has been no improvisation at all in Brünn since 1771. The best plays are given. The strength of the company is in singspiel. — —

Böhm's large investment in scenery and costumes, something for which he became well known, is noted already in 1777, in the Brünn weekly *Prosaische und poetische Beiträge* (250, as quoted in [d'Elvert 1852, 87](#); cited also in Fellmann 1928, 2):

[D]er Principal der Gesellschaft, Herr Böhm, hat das Theater in sehr gute Einrichtung gebracht. Er wendet viel auf Decorationen, und die Vorstellungen zu verschönern, und die vom gewesenen Balletmeister Rößler ehemals gemachten neuen Ballette, die alle nach dem Noverre waren, haben ihm an schönen Decorationen und neuen prächtigen Kleidern viel gekostet. Er versucht das Mögliche, um dem Publikum, welches zum Theile viel auf das Aeußere sieht, hierin Genüge zu leisten. Schwerlich möchte ein künftiger Director im Stande sein zu leisten, was er darauf verwendet hat.

The director of the company, Herr Böhm, has brought the theater into very good order. He spends much on stage settings and to beautify the performances, and the beautiful sets and magnificent new costumes for the new ballets formerly created by erstwhile ballet master Rößler, all based on Noverre, have cost him a great deal. He tries to the utmost to satisfy the public, which in part looks very much at outward appearances. Any future director will have difficulty matching what he has spent on this.

Böhm's company, in conjunction with a ballet troupe led by dancer and choreographer Jean-Georges Noverre, gave a two-month season in the Kärntnertheater in Vienna in 1776, from 17 Apr to 17 Jun. Böhm's performances of German singspiel there made such an impression on Emperor Joseph II, who had just established his "Nationaltheater," that he called Böhm to Vienna to help establish a National-Singspiel. Böhm accordingly left Brünn and came to Vienna with his wife Elisabeth, an actress and singer in his company, and their young daughters Therese

and Nanette, joining the newly established singspiel company of the Viennese court theater at the beginning of the theatrical season 1778/79 (on Böhm's time in Vienna, see principally Michtner 1970, 23, 26 and 41–61). Either Böhm or his wife, or both together performed in ten new productions in Vienna that season, sometimes with their daughters in minor roles (see, for example, the listings for four Böhms on the poster for *Frühling und Liebe*, given in facsimile in Michtner 1970, 55).

Böhm had apparently joined the court theater in Vienna under the impression that he would help direct the new company, but he quickly realized that any such promise, explicit or implied, had evaporated in the intrigue-ridden theater. From a letter that Leopold Mozart wrote to his son in Munich on 10 Dec 1778, we know that Böhm was already well advanced in preparations to leave Vienna while the season was still in progress:

unterdessen hat ein gewisser namens *Böhm* 2 tänzer hieher geschickt um subscription auf Ostern zu machen. Dieser *Böhm* hatte kürzlich noch eine grosse Gesellschaft von Schauspielern, Sängern und Tänzern und war vom Mährischen Adl in Brünn viele Jahre unterstützt.

da er nun aber als ein guter Violinspieler und sonderheit: trefflicher Directeur des orchesters angerühmt wird, so wurde er zu diesem posto ins deutsche Theater zu den Singspielen nach Wienn beruffen. weil ihm aber mehr am Herzen liegt selbst eine Truppe zu führen und er Geld und guardarobba hat, so sammelt er wieder eine Gesellschaft und wird nach Salz: kommen. die beyden tänzer sind abgereiset, einer derselben ist aber itzt wieder hiehergekommen, und wird hier bleiben, auch soll H: Böhm auch hier eintreffen um alles in Ordnung zu bringen indem er abermahl eine grosse Compagnie sammeln will, es sollen auch, wie dieser Tänzer sagt, bereits einige 20 Personen engagiert seyn.

der Tänzer heist *H: Vogt* ist ein Deutscher H: Ceccarelli kennet ihn sehr gut von Italien. [*Briefe*, ii:519]

[translation:]

Meanwhile a certain person named *Böhm* has sent 2 dancers here to take subscriptions for after Easter. This *Böhm* until recently had a large company of actors, singers, and dancers, and was supported for many years by the Moravian nobility in Brünn.

Since, however, he is also said to be a good violinist and that rarity, a splendid orchestra director, he was called to this post in the German Singspiel theater in Vienna. But because leading his own troupe lies closer to his heart, and because he has money and costumes, he is again assembling a company, and will be coming to Salzburg. The two dancers have departed, but one of them has returned and will remain here, and Herr Böhm is also supposed to come here to put everything in order, in that he once again wants to assemble a large *compagnie*; around 20 people, so this dancer says, have already been engaged.

The dancer's name is *Herr Vogt*. He is a German. Herr Ceccarelli knows him very well from Italy.



Leopold was incorrect about Böhm's position in Vienna: Böhm was an actor in the company, not a conductor or violinist (although he does seem on occasion to have taken on that function in his own company). The musical director of the National-Singspiel in Vienna was Ignaz Umlauf, whose singspiel *Die Bergknappen* had been the company's inaugural production, premiering on 17 Feb 1778. Leopold's letter makes clear that Böhm was already actively recruiting his new company more than two months before the end of the theatrical season in Vienna.

## Elias and Peter Vogt (↑)

Leopold refers to "2 dancers" associated with Böhm who had come to Salzburg to arrange his new company's first engagement there. According to Leopold, both dancers had left Salzburg, but one, a "Herr Vogt," whom Ceccarelli had known in Italy, had returned by early Dec 1778. The commentary to Leopold's letter in *Briefe* (v:575) identifies the two dancers as Peter and Elias Vogt, and the returning dancer as Peter. While these identifications may be correct, little work has been done on the Vogts, and it may be worth digging a little deeper.

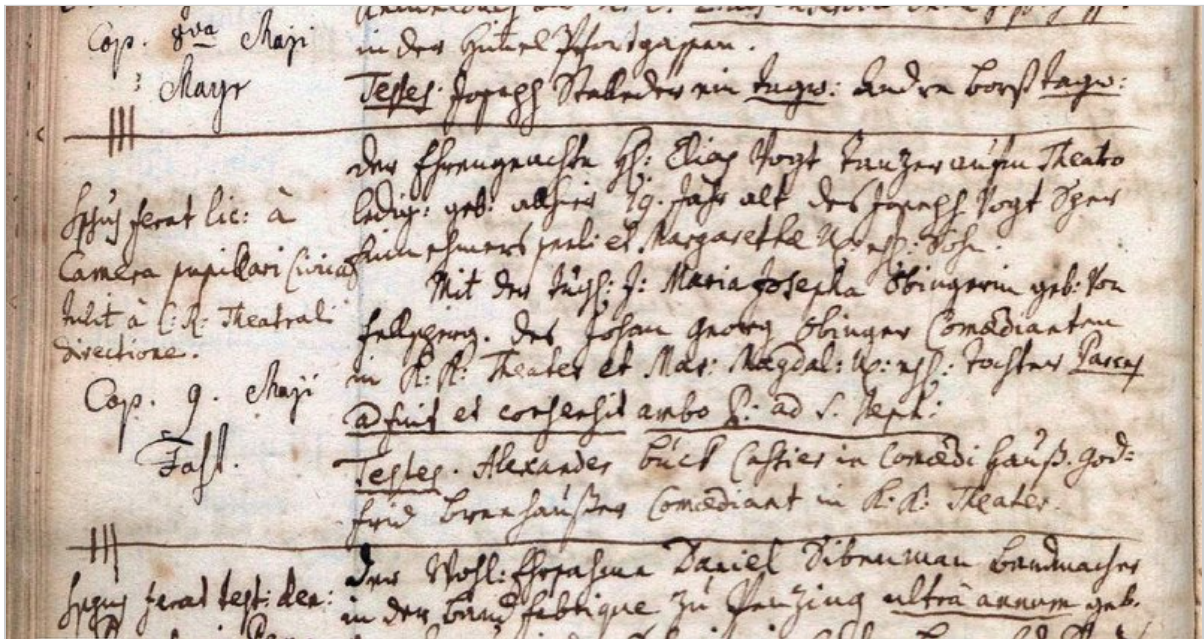
Elias and Peter Vogt were brothers from a Viennese family that produced at least four sons who worked as professional dancers. The eldest, Peter, was baptized on 26 Jan 1749, the son of Joseph Vogt, a servant ("Bedienter"), and his wife Margaretha (†1788). Elias was baptized on 1 Feb 1751, and another brother Franz on 29 Mar 1753. (A fourth brother, Georg Vogt, is also attested as a dancer in Vienna, but seems not to have had much of a career.)

Peter, Elias, and Franz Vogt all began their careers as dancers in the court theater in Vienna, all at early ages. A "Voigt Garçon" appears among the "Amorini" in the fourth of four ballets accompanying the premiere of Traetta's opera *Armida* in the Burgtheater on 3 Jan 1761 (Gumpenhuber 1761, 6v). In 1761, 1762 and 1763, the names "Vogt" or "Voigt" appear several times in documents referring to the corps de ballet in the Viennese court theaters; it seems likely that these refer to the young Franz Vogt, whose first name appears at least twice in the documents: a 1762 [German libretto](#) for a Viennese performance of Hasse's setting of Metastasio's *Il trionfo di Clelia* lists a "Francesco Voigt" among the corps de ballet in the first act (cited in Zechmeister 1971, 247); and "Francesco Voigt" also appears among the "Seguaci D'Apollo" in the ballet "La favola d'Apollo et Daffné" accompanying the premiere of Giuseppe Scarlatti's *Artaserse* in the Burgtheater on 4 Jan 1763 (Gumpenhuber 1763, 7r). If these early references do indeed point to Franz Vogt, he would have not yet turned eight at the time of his performance as one of the "Amorini" in Jan 1761.

A [Viennese scenario](#) for Noverre's ballet *Médée et Jason*, first performed in Vienna on 8 Feb 1767, lists all three Vogts among the "Furies Pour Le Ballet: Les Sieurs Vogt Pierre, Vogt Elias, Vogt Francois ...." (Zechmeister 1971, 283). Peter, the oldest, had just turned eighteen, Elias had just turned sixteen, and Franz was still only thirteen. All three are likewise listed in the *Indice de'*

*spettacoli* for 1767 as members of the corps de ballet in Vienna, as "Francesco Vogt," "Peter Togt" [sic], and "Elias Vogt."

On 9 May 1768, Elias Vogt married Maria Josepha Obinger, daughter of actor Johann Georg Obinger; one of the witnesses was the celebrated actor and Viennese Hanswurst [Gottfried Prehauser](#). Elias was just seventeen at the time, although his age is given in the marriage record as nineteen.



Entry for the marriage of Elias Vogt and Maria Josepha Obinger  
Vienna, St. Stephan, Trauungsbuch 2/64, 158v

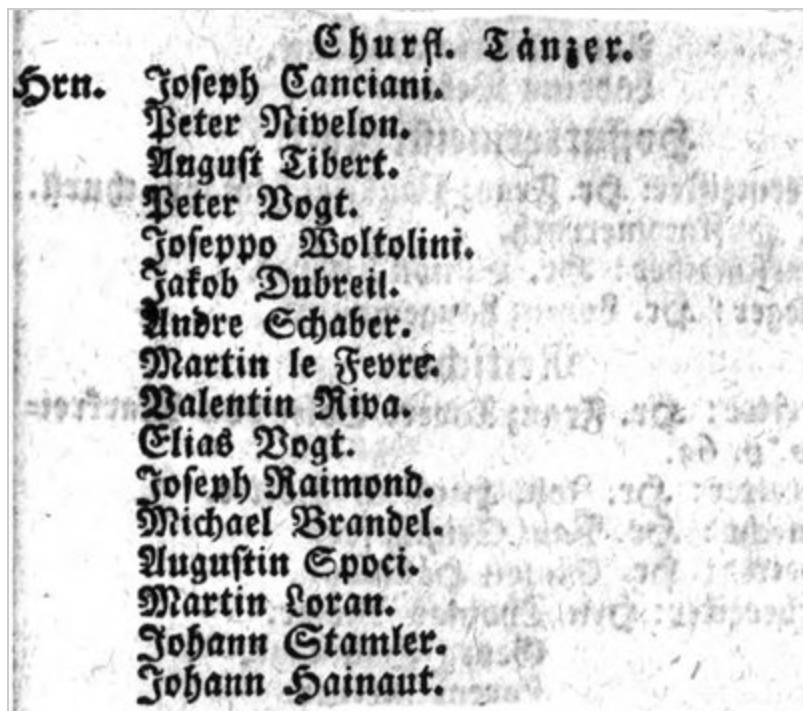
Maria Josepha seems to have been an actress; she is probably the "Mademoiselle Obingerinn" listed in the cast for Heufeld's *Liebhäber nach der Mode*, which premiered in Vienna on 12 Apr 1766 (see Zechmeister 1971, 277–79 and note 20), and the "Madame Vogtin" who appeared in 1768 in the role of Justel, the wife of Hannswurst, in *Hannswurst, der musikalische Seifensieder*, with Prehauser in the title role (Zechmeister 1971, 125). It may be, then, that the "Herr und Madame Vogt" who joined the theater in Brünn (Brno) in 1771 as ballet master and actress were Elias and Maria Josepha Vogt (see Müller, *Genaue Nachrichten*, 1773, vol. 2, 218 and *passim*). Vogt's ballets are described there as "[following] the manner of Noverre." If this identification is correct, then Elias may have crossed paths in Brünn with Johann Böhm, who had likewise recently joined the company and soon took over its management. Elias Vogt is named as choreographer of two ballets given in Vienna in the summer of 1773, *Das Narrenhaus* (July) and *Die Rache der Gratien* (August), both said to be "[von Erfindung des Herrn Elias Vogt](#)"; most of the other ballets that season were by Noverre, who was still director of ballet at the Viennese court theater.

Franz Vogt seems to have spent nearly all of his short life and career in Vienna, and never to have progressed beyond the level of "figurant." He is listed (as "Francesco Vogt") in the *Indice de' spettacoli* as a member of the corps de ballet in the "Teatro presso la Porta d'Italia" in Vienna (the

Kärntnertortheater) in 1771 (48), 1772 (35), 1773 (54; see also Müller 1773, vol. 1, 80), 1774 (72), 1775 (71), and carnival season 1776 (102). In the *Indici* for 1774 and 1775, the name "Francesco Vogt" appears just above "N. Vogt" (in other words, a Vogt whose first name the editor of the *Indice* did not know); this may have been Georg. In 1778 "Francesco Fogt" is listed among the "Figuranti" under Giuseppe Jacobelli in Graz (*Indice de' spettacoli* for 1778, 35); at present, this is the only known reference to Franz outside Vienna. He died in Vienna on 21 Dec 1780 at the age of 27; in the notice of his death in the *Wiener Zeitung*, he is described as "gew[esener] Theatraltänz[er]" (former theatrical dancer).

Both Peter and Elias Vogt had careers as solo dancers and choreographers outside Vienna. Both are attested in Munich in the early 1770s. Peter is listed among the dancers in the court establishment in the *Churbayerischer Hof- und Staats-Kalender* for 1771, and he is named as a solo dancer in the libretto for Metastasio and Sacchini's *L'eroe cinese*, the carnival opera in Munich that year. He is missing from the list of dancers in the *Hof- und Staats-Kalender* for 1772, but his name does appear in that capacity in the *Indice de' spettacoli* that year (as "Monsieur Vogt"; *Indice* 1772, 35). He is once again listed as a dancer in the Munich court establishment in the *Hof- und Staats-Kalender* for 1773. Elias Vogt was also in Munich by early 1774: he took the role of *Mercure* in the ballet *Apollon Pasteur* that followed the performance of *Achille in Sciro*, the carnival opera in Munich that year (Peter Vogt is listed among the "Pasteurs Comiques"), and his name also appears among the "*Suite des Nimphes, & Genies d'Edonis*" in the second ballet following the opera, *Alcide sur le chemin fourchu*. Both Peter and Elias are listed as dancers in the Munich court establishment in 1774, and the *Indice de' spettacoli* for that year lists a "Sig. Foch" as one of the "Ballerini grotteschi" in the court theater in Munich, and "Sig. Foch" (not necessarily the same person) as a choreographer of "balli di mezzo carattere" there. Both Peter and Elias subsequently disappear from the printed Munich rosters.

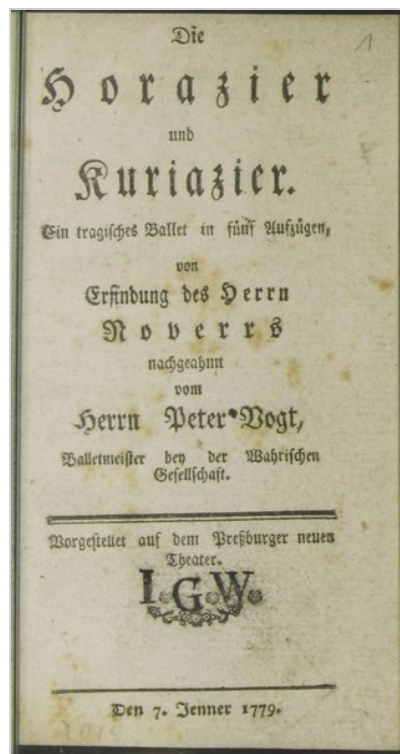




Peter and Elias Vogt in the list of dancers at the Munich court  
*Churbayerischer Hof- und Staats-Kalender* for 1774, 71

The *Indice de' spettacoli* lists both Peter and Elias Vogt as dancers in Venice in the summer of 1775: Peter in the Teatro San Samuele and Elias in the Teatro San Moisè. Francesco Ceccarelli was performing in Venice at that same time in the Teatro San Luca and thus could have gotten to know both Peter and Elias in Venice (for these three references, see the *Indice de' spettacoli* 1775/76, 14–16). Peter Vogt is documented as having danced in several other Italian theaters in 1775, 1776, and early 1777: in Lucca in the autumn of 1775 (*Indice* 1775/76, 22); in Modena during carnival 1776 (*Indice* 1775/76, 68); in Reggio in the spring of 1776 (*Indice* 1776/77, 14); and at the Teatro San Benedetto in Venice in the autumn of 1776 and carnival 1777 (*Indice* 1776/77, 42, as “Pietro Wogt”; and 117). Elias is listed (as “Elia Vogt”) as choreographer and dancer in Ferrara during carnival 1776 (*Indice* 1775/76, 50), but then disappears from the Italian lists. He is named as a principal dancer with the Jacobelli company in Graz for a performance on 9 Sep 1776 of the ballet *Der Sieg der Tugend und der Liebe*, following the tragedy *Derbi, oder Treue und Freundschaft*, the inaugural performance in the new theater there.

By 1779, Peter Vogt was ballet master for the theatrical company of Karl Wahr: his name appears in that capacity on the title page of a scenario for *Die Horazier und Kuriazier* in Pressburg (Bratislava) in Jan 1779 (expressly imitating Noverre’s *Les Horace et les Curiaces*, Vienna 1774), and he is listed in the Gotha *Theater-Kalender* for 1780 (251, based on information from 1779) as “Erster Balletmeister” in the roster of Wahr’s company in Prague.



Scenario for *Die Horazier und Kuriazier*, Pressburg, 7 Jan 1779  
Dresden, Die Sächsische Landesbibliothek, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, [Dramat.573,misc.1](#)

A “Herr Vogt” is also named in that same roster as “Erster Komiktänzer” (first comic dancer). The identity of this second Herr Vogt (if it is indeed a separate person) is uncertain; however, it is possible that both listings refers to Peter. Given the current limited knowledge of the Vogts, it cannot yet be ruled out that the second “Herr Vogt” in the roster of Wahr’s company refers to Elias, but this seems unlikely on two counts: his attested roles to that point were not comic; and more importantly, the very same volume of the *Theater-Kalender* (231) already lists a “H. Vogt,” as Böhm’s ballet master in Salzburg and Augsburg for 1779. This seems certainly to have been Elias, given that Peter was with Wahr in Pressburg and Prague.

The hypothesis that Elias was Böhm’s ballet master in 1779 is given additional weight by a roster of Böhm’s company published in the *Theater-Kalender* the following year (1781, [cxxxxvi](#), reporting information from 1780):

Ballet. H. Vogt: Bal=  
letmeister und erster seriöser Tänzer. H. Pe=  
ter Vogt: Erster komischer Tänzer.

Ballet, Herr Vogt:  
ballet maister and first serious dancer. Herr  
Peter Vogt: First comic dancer.

Böhm’s ballet master in 1779 and 1780 was thus almost certainly Elias, and Peter seems to have left Wahr and joined Böhm’s company in 1780 as first comic dancer. If this reading of the

evidence is correct, then the "Herr Vogt" referred to by Leopold in his letter of 10 Dec 1778 is probably Elias (whom Ceccarelli could have gotten to know in Venice in 1775). As we shall see, this identification is consistent with a subsequent reference to Elias Vogt in Nannerl's diary, and with references to both brothers in the later correspondence of the Mozart family.

### **Böhm's first engagement in Salzburg (6 Apr to 2 Jun 1779) ([↑](#))**

The first full season of the new National-Singspiel in Vienna ended on 16 Feb 1779, Shrove Tuesday, with a performance of *Frühling und Liebe*, in which the Böhm family had parts. Böhm's new company gave its first performance in Salzburg seven weeks later, on 6 Apr, the first Tuesday after Easter; so the company's engagement in Salzburg was apparently its first anywhere (it is unlikely that it had an intervening engagement during Lent, and there is no known evidence that it did). In her diary for this period, Nannerl Mozart frequently mentions the theater; although she does not mention Böhm by name, she is certainly referring to performances by his company. Her first reference, on 6 Apr ("*papa* ich und mein bruder in der *comédie*"), was almost certainly the Böhm company's first performance in Salzburg, and her last reference during that period, on 2 Jun 1779, was almost certainly the company's final performance of its first season in Salzburg. (For Nannerl's diary entries from this period, see *Briefe*, ii:543–46 and 549–51. Facsimiles with transcriptions are given in Geffray 1998, 36–57; see also Hummel 1958, 42–52. The leaf containing the entries for 26 Mar to 2 Apr 1779 is lost; the contents are known from a transcription in the *Wiener allgemeine Musik-Zeitung*, [20 Jun 1846, 295](#).)

On Wed, 31 Mar 1779, a few days before Böhm's first performance of the season, Mozart wrote in his sister's diary "ein Augenblick um 3 uhr im theatre" ("in the theater for a moment at 3 o'clock"), suggesting that he may have stopped by the theater during one of the company's rehearsals, or perhaps simply to see what was going on as the company moved in. He did not have to go out of his way to do so. In 1773 the Mozarts had moved from their apartment in the Getreidegasse in Salzburg to a larger one in the so-called Tanzmeisterhaus on Hannibalplatz (today [Makartplatz](#)) on the other side of the Salzach River. In 1775 Archbishop Colloredo had ordered that a Ballhaus opposite the Tanzmeisterhaus on Hannibalplatz be converted into a public theater, and it was in this theater that a succession of traveling companies played, beginning with the company of Karl Wahr in 1775 and 1776. Thus the Mozarts lived just steps from the theater; they attended often and probably kept track of what was being performed even when they did not attend. The proximity made it easy for them to become closely acquainted and socialize with members of the visiting troupes, as they did with Böhm's in 1779 and 1780.

A report published in 1782 in the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* ([xix:37–45](#)) on the Salzburg engagement of Emanuel Schikaneder's company in Salzburg in the fall and winter of 1780/81 includes a helpful description of the theater, its schedule, its capacity, and its ticket prices:

Die Spieltage hier sind, Sonntag, Montag,  
Mittwoch und Freytag. Das Einlaggeld ist in der  
fürstlichen Gallerie (dann unser Schauspielhaus hat  
gar keine Loge) 36 Kr. auf dem Parterre Noble ebenfalls  
36 Kr. auf beeden Seiten Gallerien 24 Kr. im zweyten  
Parterre 12 Kr. und im letzten Platz unter der fürstlichen  
Gallerie 6 Kr. die 2 Seitengallerien haben 3 Bänke  
übereinander, wenn alle Plätze gepopft voll sind, so  
möchte das Schauspielhaus über 700 Personen fassen.  
[*Theater-Journal für Deutschland*, [xix:39](#)]

Performance days here are Sunday, Monday,  
Wednesday, and Friday. Admission to the  
princely balcony (for our theater has no boxes)  
is 36 kr., to the noble parterre likewise 36 kr.,  
to the two side balconies 24 kr., to the second  
parterre 12 kr. and to the last places under the  
the princely gallery 6 kr. The two side balconies  
have three rows of benches; when all places are  
packed full, the theater can hold over 700 people.

The report goes on to give the complete program for Schikaneder's season in Salzburg, noting the gate receipts from each performance. Receipts ranged from a high of 186 fl. for a performance of [Joseph August Count von Törring's](#) *Agnes Bernauerin* on 18 Jan 1781, to a low of 34 fl. for a performance of "Die Soldatenlieb" (probably *Die Soldatenliebe*, Johann Heinrich Friedrich Mülller's translation of a play by Goldoni) on 30 Dec 1780. These totals are quite modest compared to the gate receipts from larger theaters such as the Burgtheater and Kärntnertortheater in Vienna (see the discussions in the entries for [5 Nov 1784](#) and [5 Oct 1791](#)).

Over the 58 days of Böhm's engagement in Salzburg in 1779, Nannerl mentions 22 performances, most of which she attended, often in the company of others; two diary entries, on 16 and 30 May, refer to Wolfgang attending, implying that Nannerl did not. But she mentions no titles, not even for the performance on 19 May 1779, about which she writes:

wir sind in die *comédie* gegangen, wie ich zurückkam hatte ich, da ich so sehr in der *comédie* geweint hab Kopf wehe:

We went to the theater; when I came back, I had a headache because I had cried so much in the theater.

In her diary entries from this period, she uses the word "comédie" (best translated in this context as "theater," rather than "comedy") 21 times and "operette" just once, in her entry for 8 Apr.



However, Böhm's company probably performed many more singspiels in Salzburg than Nannerl's terminology implies; in the 40 performances of the company's first engagement in Augsburg, immediately following its first in Salzburg, it gave singspiels on 28 evenings, and plays on only 12; thus singspiels formed 70% of the company's program in Augsburg.

From the terse and uninformative entries in Nannerl's diary during this period, it is difficult to discern regularities in the company's programming in Salzburg; it is very likely, in any case, that the company gave more performances than she records in her diary. She mentions theater attendances most often on Sundays (seven times), followed by Mondays (five times), Tuesdays (four times), Wednesdays (three times), Thursdays (twice), and Fridays (once). These proportions seem more likely to reflect the Mozarts' weekly social calendar than the relative proportion of days on which Böhm's company performed. The only day of the week on which Nannerl does not mention a theatrical performance is Saturday; it may be that Saturday was the company's day off, or that performances on Saturdays were restricted. Nannerl also mentions attending a ballet rehearsal on 22 Apr.

Böhm's name does not appear in Nannerl's diary entries for this period, but two names associated with his company do appear. On Tue, 1 Jun 1779, Nannerl notes in her diary:

nachmittag bei fr v: *Antretter*: hernach hr: *Elias Vogt* beÿ uns wir in der *comédie*:  
[*Briefe*, ii:551; Geffray 1998, 56–57; this entry is not in Hummel 1958]

Afternoon at Frau von Antretter's. Afterwards Herr Elias Vogt at our place, we in the theater.

This confirms that Elias Vogt was in Salzburg with Böhm's company in 1779; there is no known evidence placing Peter Vogt with Böhm at this time.

On Tue, 20 Apr 1779, an entry by Wolfgang in Nannerl's diary states "mit stierle und seiner frau geschwätzt" ("gossiped with Stierle and his wife"). Johann Franz Joseph Stierle (b. 1741), an actor and buffo bass often referred to as "Stierle der Ältere," was a member of Böhm's company at this time, as was his wife. (On Stierle and his younger brother Franz Xaver, a rather more prominent actor, see Pizarowitz 1970.) Johann Franz Joseph Stierle is generally credited with making the translation of *La finta giardiniera* as *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*, but the primary evidence for this attribution is missing from *Dokumente*, its supplements, and the *NMA* edition of the opera. Stierle is named as the translator in the Gotha *Theater-Kalender* for 1781, in the section "Verzeichniß der lebenden deutschen Schriftsteller und Tonkünstler, die für das Theater gearbeitet haben" (xxvii):

Stierle . . . Schauspieler der Böhmi-  
schen Gesellschaft. \*Die verfolgte Unbekannte:  
die verstellte Gärtnerin: zwey Singspiele, aus  
dem italiänischen.

Stierle . . . Actor in Böhm's

company. \**Die verfolgte Unbekannte*:  
*Die verstellte Gärtnerin*: two singspiels  
from the Italian.

*Die verstellte Gärtnerin* is the translation of *La finta giardiniera*. *Die verfolgte Unbekannte* was apparently a translation of *L'incognita perseguitata* by Giuseppe Petrosellini, with music by Pasquale Anfossi (Rome 1773); Böhm's company performed the German version in Augsburg on 19 May 1780 (the day following the second performance of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*), and again in Ulm on 5 Jun 1780 ([Stadtarchiv Ulm, G 3 1670 - 1899 Theaterzettel 1670 - 1899, Fasz. 1670-1780 Nr. 180](#)). It seems unlikely, however, that either translation was ready for performance during Böhm's first season in Salzburg, and neither work appears in the company's repertory during its first season in Augsburg. That the Stierles and Elias Vogt are mentioned in Nannerl's diary in the spring of 1779 shows, however, that the Mozarts were already socializing with Böhm's circle during his company's first season in Salzburg.

### **Böhm's first engagement in Augsburg (11 Jun to 1 Sep 1779) (↑)**

Böhm's company went directly from Salzburg to Augsburg, where it played from 11 Jun 1779 (just nine days after its final performance in Salzburg) through 1 Sep. The *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* (no. 15, 109–15) gives a detailed report on the company's first season in Augsburg, including a complete program (the program is given with additional detail in [Deininger 1943, 386–92](#)). The company gave 40 performances in Augsburg over the span of 83 days. Its program included 28 different works: 12 spoken plays and 16 singspiels. Nine of the singspiels were repeated two or more times; no play was repeated. This variety of repertory seems to have been typical of Böhm's company, and indeed of most itinerant theatrical companies in German-speaking lands at this time. During Böhm's first season in Augsburg, 12 of the 15 singspiels performed were adapted from French originals, with music by Grétry, Monsigny, and a few others. Only three were based on Italian originals: *Robert und Kalliste*, adapted from Guglielmi's *La sposa fedele*, performed four times during the company's first season in Augsburg; *Das gute Mädchen*, from Piccinni's popular *La buona figliuola*, performed three times; and *Das Gärtnermädchen von Frascati*, from Paisiello's *La frascatana*, likewise given three times. That the singspiels based on Italian originals were the ones most often repeated in the company's first season in Augsburg suggests that Böhm was catering to the taste of the local audience. The number of repetitions also suggest he may have had relatively few "Italian" singspiels in his repertory at the time. This in turn suggests that he may have made a particular effort between his two engagements in Augsburg to increase the number of singspiels in his repertory derived from Italian originals. During his second season in Augsburg, from 28 Mar to 19 May 1780, the company's repertory shows an even balance between singspiels derived from French and Italian originals, six each; one of the new works derived from an Italian original was *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*, adapted from Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*, and another was *Die verfolgte Unbekannte*, based on *L'incognita perseguitata*. It seems plausible, therefore, that Böhm may have

asked Mozart for a German version of *La finta giardiniera* precisely because he wanted to expand the number of "Italian" works in his company's repertory.

The report on Böhm's company in issue 15 of the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* (published in 1780) gives a good deal of insight into the company and its actors during the company's first engagement in Augsburg in 1779. After complaining about the dreadful performances of the Stösler company in Ulm ("unter aller Kritik" — "beneath all criticism") and the small and poorly laid-out theater in Augsburg (said to have a maximum capacity under 200), the correspondent goes on to write:

Augsburg wird jezt immer mit Schauspielern heimge= sucht, mit der lezten Stöslerischen Gesellschaft wurd es zwar gestraft, mit der Böhmischen hingegen wieder belohnt. Leztere hat seit ihres hiesigen Aufenthalts meist lauter Sing= spiele aufgeführt, und es scheint auch, daß Herr Direktor Böhme blos singende Akteurs aufzunehmen sucht, und han= delt daher sehr klug, daß er nur sehr wenige Lust= und Schauspiele bey seinem dortigen Aufenthalt aufgeföhret hat weil seine Gesellschaft hierinnen lange nicht so stark ist, und daher Hamlet, der Spleen, Sophie, Merope, die Ho= razier, u. s. w. lange nicht mit dem Beyfalle als seine Singspiele aufgeföhret worden sind, besonders da jeder Schauspieler und Schauspielerinn, Rollen, zu der sie nicht gewachsen waren, spielen mußten.

Herr Böhme hat in aller Absicht große Verdienste um das Theater, eine gute und reine Kehle, prächtige Gar= derobbe und ein mit der vortreflichen Musik besetztes Or= chester: ich war bey Anhörung der Musik wie im Himmel, wenn mich nicht der hohen und ungeheure Aufputz der lieben Damen erinnert hätte, daß ich mich auf der lieben Gottes Erde befinde, wo einer immer dem andern im Lichte stehet. Er ist stets bemüht seine Zuschauer durch die Auswahl der schönsten Stücke zu befriedigen, um sich das Wohlwollen des Publikums dadurch zu erwerben. Seine Singrollen stu= diert er gut, singt mit vielem Takte und wahrem Ausdru= cke, und spielt meist alle komische Rollen; so trat er als Lukas im guten Mädchen, als Basil im Silvain, als Grip= pon in den beeden Geitzigen, als Schwindel in den Pil= grimmen von Mecka, als Sepp im Faßbinder, als Him= melsturm im Deserteur, u. s. w. mit vielem Glücke auf, und alle diese Rollen schienen ihm vorzüglich zu gehören, da er sie ganz vortreflich und der Natur aufs getreueste spielt, daher auch das Applaudiren kein Ende nahm, und manche Arie auf Verlangen des Publikums von ihm wieder= holt werden mußte: nur schade, daß in den meisten auf= geföhrt Singspielen manche Arie entweder ganz ausgelas=

sen oder verändert worden ist: ein Fehler der sich bey der Gesellschaft sehr oft ereignete, und ich die Ursache davon nicht erfahren konnte.

Es ist sehr zu wünschen, daß Herr Böhme diesen so unverzeihlichen und bey seiner Gesellschaft so sehr eingerissenen Fehler aufs baldeste abzuheben sucht.

Herr Bilau, dem in seinen Rollen Figur und Anstand sehr zu Hülfe kommt, und unter den guten Schauspielern mit Recht Platz nehmen darf, seine Stimme ist rein, und seine Aktion natürlich.

Gleich neben ihn stell ich Herrn Stierle, Herrn Zimmerl. Beide sehr gute Sänger, die ihre Stellen trefflich auszudrücken wissen: immer sah ich sie mit Natur und Leichtigkeit spielen.

Herr Miller, Herr Kerscher, Herr Simoni, Herr Schmidt, Herr Brandstetter, Herr Viehhäuser und Herr Setzer sind zwar in ihren Stimmen sehr gut, sie sollten aber sorgfältiger memoriren, und sich mehr in die Lage ihrer Rollen hinein zu studieren wissen. Herr Vogt, ist Balletmeister. Seine Ballette sind sehr geschmackvoll, und die meisten von dem Noverre nachgeahmt.

Madame Böhme, eine sehr schöne und gut gewachsene Frau, eine vortreffliche musikalische Sängerinn, die Leidenschaft ergreifen ihr Herz, und ihr beredtes Gefühl dringt in die Seele des Zuschauers, der Schönheiten zu fühlen weiß. So bald sie auf der Bühne erscheint, flieht ihr klatschender Beyfall entgegen, und hier ist keine Cabale noch Unwissenheit des Parterrs, es ist übereinstimmendes Lob des Kenners. Die ganze Vortrefflichkeit ihres Spiels zu schildern ist mir unmöglich; und ich bin auch nicht zu enthusiastisch, wenn ich sage, daß sie in schalkhaften und überhaupt in komischen Rollen nicht mehr zu übertreffen ist.

Mademoiselle Böhme, ein allerliebstes hoffnungsvolles Mädchen von 9. Jahren, hat das Theater mit einem Prolog und mit erstaunendem Beyfall eröffnet. Im Silvain erschien sie als Lukette, sie sang mit bewunderungswerther Stärke und mit sehr vieler Natur. Wenn dieses reizende Mädchen mit dem Fleiße und dem eifrigen Bemühen natürlich hinreißend zu seyn, in dem Grade fortfährt, so möchte sie mit der Zeit eine Mad. Sacco übertreffen, die fast nichts als den unnachahmlichen sanften Ton ihrer Stimme zum voraus hat.

Mad. Zimmerl singt gut. Wenn sie doch weinger in ihren Gestikulationen affektirte, und sich nicht so sehr nachlässig trüge! Es scheint sie ist von ihrer Schönheit und von ihren Verdiensten zu sehr eingenommen, als daß sie sich hierinn besserte. Sie memorirt sehr gut und als Tänzerinn

ist sie vortreflich.

Madame Perchtold, Mademoiselle Amor, Mad. Smitt, Molle, Weinert, Mad. Miller haben alle gute Singstimmen, und würden ganz ohnfehlbar noch besser und reiner singen, wenn sie nicht als Tänzerinnen gebraucht würden.—  
[[Theater-Journal für Deutschland](#), no. 15, 110–13]

[translation:]

Augsburg is at present continually plagued by actors; with the recent Stösler company it was indeed punished; with Böhm's on the other hand it was again rewarded. The latter performed mostly singspiels during its engagement here, and it also seems that Herr Director Böhm looks to hire only singing actors; and he is very clever in doing this, as he performed only very few comedies and plays during his engagement, because his company is not so strong in these, and thus *Hamlet*, *Der Spleen*, *Sophie*, *Mérope*, *Die Horazier*, etc. have not by any means been received with the acclaim that his singspiel performances have received, especially because every actor and actress had to play roles that they were not equal to.

Herr Böhm has in every respect done great service to the theater, has a good and pure voice, magnificent costumes, and an orchestra staffed with excellent musicians: I felt I was in heaven while listening to the music, had not the tall and monstrous hair-dos of the dear ladies reminded me that I was on dear God's earth, where one person is always standing in another's light. He constantly strives to satisfy his audience with the most beautiful pieces, in order thereby to obtain the goodwill of the public. He prepares his singing roles well, sings with much tact and true expression, and plays almost entirely comic roles; thus he appeared with much success as Lukas in *Das gute Mädchen*, as Basil in *Sylvain*, as Grippon in *Die beiden Geizigen*, as Schwindel in *Die Pilgrime von Mekka*, as Sepp in *Der Faßbinder*, as Himmelsturm in *Der Deserteur*, etc., and all of these roles seemed to be eminently suitable to him, as he plays them most excellently and truly naturally, such that there is no end of applause, and he must by public demand encore many arias; only it is a pity that in most of the singspiels that are performed, some arias are either omitted entirely or altered: a failing that happens often with this company, and for which I have not been able to learn the cause.

It is very much to be hoped that Herr Böhm will seek as soon as possible to repair this unforgivable and so very damaging failing.

Herr Bilau is greatly helped in his roles by his

physique and manner, and may rightly take his place among the good actors: his voice is pure and his movement natural.

At this same level I place Herr Stierle, Herr Zimmerl. Both are very good singers, who know how to express their parts splendidly; I always saw them perform naturally and with ease.

Herr Miller, Herr Kerscher, Herr Simoni, Herr Schmidt, Herr Brandstetter, Herr Viehhäuser, and Herr Setzer are indeed very good with their voices, but they should memorize more carefully, and learn how to inhabit their roles more deeply. Herr Vogt is ballet master. His ballets are tasteful and mostly imitate Noverre.

Madame Böhm, a very beautiful woman with a good figure, an excellent and musical singer; the passions seize her heart and her eloquent emotions penetrate the soul of the spectator who knows how to feel the beauties. As soon as she appears on stage, she is greeted with applause, and this is neither cabal nor ignorance in the parterre, it is unanimous praise from the connoisseur. It is impossible for me to portray the full excellence of her performance, and I am not being overly enthusiastic when I say that she is unsurpassed in devilish roles and comic roles in general.

Mademoiselle Böhm, a lovely and promising girl of nine, opened the theater with a prologue received with astonishing applause. In *Sylvain* she appeared as Lukette, she sang with marvelous strength and great naturalness. If this charming girl continues with the same degree of diligence and assiduous effort to be so naturally enchanting, she may in time surpass a Madame Sacco [[Johanna Sacco](#)], who has almost nothing to her advantage except her inimitably gentle voice.

Madame Zimmerl sings well. If she were only less affected in her gestures, and did not carry herself so negligently! It seems that she is too much taken with her own beauty and her merits to bother improving in this. She memorizes very well and is excellent as a dancer. Madame Perchtold, Mademoiselle Amor, Madame Smitt, Molle, Weinert, Madame Miller all have good singing voices, and would certainly sing even better and more correctly if they were not used as dancers.

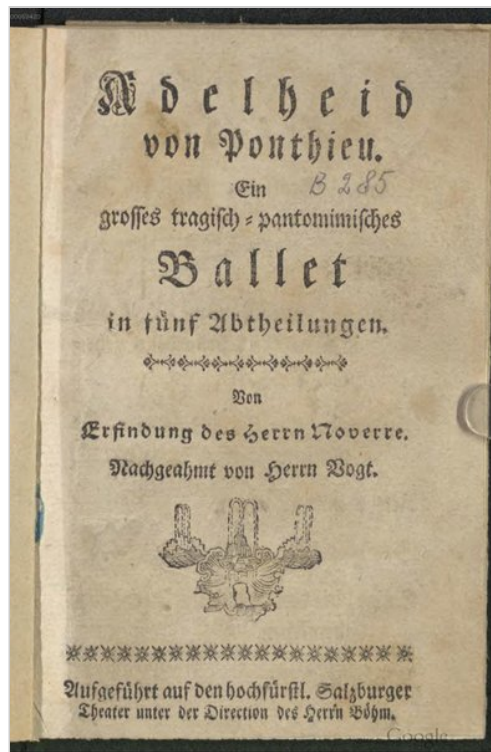
As this report suggests, Böhm's repertory in Augsburg was heavily weighted toward the light, comic, and sentimental, leavened only occasionally by a "serious" play or tragedy: Voltaire's *Mérope*, in a translation by Gotter, on 18 Jun; Möller's *Sophie, oder Der gerechte Fürst* on 8 Jul;

Stephanie d. J.'s *Der Speen* on 12 Jul; *Hamlet* on 15 Jul; and *Die Horatier*, a translation by Keppner from Corneille's *Horace*, on 29 Jul. Although the company's repertory during its immediately preceding season in Salzburg remains entirely unknown, it is likely to have included many of the works performed during its first season in Augsburg (although, as we shall see, the repertory of Böhm's company was remarkable for its diversity, rapid turnover, and avoidance of repetition). Although his company is often said to have been large, and soon became so, its size seems still to have been relatively modest in 1779, during its first engagements in Salzburg and Augsburg. The Gotha *Theater-Kalender* for 1780 (231, based on information from 1779) lists just twenty actors in Böhm's company, nine female and eleven male, including Böhm, his wife, and one of their daughters, along with Herr Vogt (very likely Elias) as ballet master, but no additional dancers or other staff, suggesting that members of the company probably fulfilled a variety of functions in addition to acting. The following year the *Theater-Kalender* (cxxxv and ff.) lists as many as forty members in Böhm's company (the exact number is uncertain): twenty-two actors (thirteen male and nine female, two of whom are also listed as dancers); five solo dancers along with four pairs of "Figuranten" (some of whom may also have been among the actors); and five additional staff (a music director, répétiteur, bassoonist, souffleur, and a painter who doubled as "machinist").

The correspondent to the *Theater-Journal* writes of the splendid impression made by the orchestra, but no orchestra is named in either of the company's rosters in the *Theater-Kalender*, apart from a music director and the bassoonist mentioned in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781. It may be that Böhm's company had its own orchestra (some traveling companies did), but at present we have insufficient evidence to say. It may be, on the other hand, that Böhm recruited all or part of his orchestra from among local musicians in the towns in which his company played.

Twenty-six of the company's forty performances in Augsburg in 1779 were paired with ballets. Thirteen different ballets were performed, of which eight were repeated two or more times. The most often repeated (five times) was *Adelheid von Ponthieu*, by "Herr Vogt" (it is not specified which) in imitation of Noverre's *Adèle de Ponthieu*, first performed in Vienna in 1773. As it happens, a printed scenario survives for Vogt's version of Noverre's ballet as it was "performed in the princely theater in Salzburg" (to our knowledge, this scenario has not previously been mentioned in the Mozart literature). The title page reads:





Adelheid  
von Ponthieu.  
Ein  
grosses tragisch=pantomimisches  
Ballet  
in fünf Abtheilungen.

Von  
Erfindung des Herrn Noverre.  
Nachgeahmt von Herrn Vogt.

Aufgeführt auf den hochfürstl. Salzburger  
Theater unter der Direction des Herrn Böhm.

The scenario is not dated, and we cannot be sure whether it was printed for the Böhm company's first season in Salzburg, in spring 1779 (in which case "Herr Vogt" was probably Elias) or its second one the following autumn and winter (when it might have been either Elias or Peter). But given that *Adelheid von Ponthieu* was performed five times during the company's first season in Augsburg (on 11, 23 Jun, 5, 13, and 29 Jul 1779), it is tempting to think that the ballet had also been given during the immediately preceding engagement in Salzburg. The Böhm company also performed the ballet *Don Juan* in Augsburg (based on Angiolini's ballet with Gluck's music, perhaps supplemented with additional music by others) on 25 Jun, and 1 and 9 Jul 1779, and it is quite possible that it also performed this ballet in Salzburg during one of its two engagements there (on the Böhm company's performances of *Don Juan*, see Dahms 2007, 434).

## Böhm's second engagement in Salzburg (early Sep 1779 to 28 Feb 1780) (↑)

Böhm had arranged to bring his company back to Salzburg immediately following his first engagement in Augsburg, but seems to have regretted the return almost immediately. He sent letters from Salzburg complaining about new restrictions on the numbers of days when performances were allowed and new administrative fees that he was required to pay (for transcriptions of Böhm's letters from Salzburg see [Deininger 1943, 368–78](#)). The earliest of the letters explicitly marked as having been written in Salzburg is dated 11 Sep 1779; in it, Böhm writes that were he not actively being prevented from doing so, he would immediately bring his company back to Augsburg. But by the beginning of Nov, Böhm wrote that Archbishop Colloredo had refused to release him from his agreement (he included a copy of Colloredo's quite nasty letter), and that his company was obliged to remain in Salzburg through Ash Wednesday, 9 Feb 1780.

Whereas Nannerl's diary survives complete for all of Böhm's first season in Salzburg, only two leaves of the diary are known to survive from the time of the company's second engagement there in the autumn and winter of 1779–1780. The first fragment covers the dates 2 to 16 Dec 1779 (on two sides of a single leaf); the second fragment was long believed to date from the last two weeks of Mar 1780, but (as we shall see) actually covers the period 18 Feb to 7 Mar. Two additional leaves long been thought to refer to the period 15 to 28 Sep 1779 have recently been redated (certainly correctly) to 15 to 28 Jun 1780 (see Geffray 1998, 74–81, and the explanation on 214, note 287); these leaves do not mention the theater.

In contrast to her diary from the period of Böhm's first season in Salzburg, in which Nannerl gives no titles or other details about the company's performances, the fragment of her diary from 2 to 16 Dec 1779 (Geffray 1998, 62–65; *Briefe* ii:554–55; Hummel 1958, 64–66) appears to list every performance by Böhm's company during that fifteen-day period, nine performances in all, on 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 Dec. Titles are given for the main pieces in every case, and for all but one of the accompanying ballets. She (and her brother, who wrote the entry on 2 Dec) also number the performances, "51" to "59," implying that the company had already given 50 performances between its return to Salzburg in early Sep and the fragment's first entry on 2 Dec 1779. During the 15 days covered by the fragment, the Böhm company gave seven different plays and two singspiels (Nannerl calls both "operette"): a German version of Paisiello's *La frascatana* on 13 Dec, and Böhm's own *Die verkaufte Braut* on 9 Dec. (Nannerl specifies that Böhm wrote both the text and the music of *Die verkaufte Braut*, adding "das operette sehr schlecht"—"the operette very bad.") No play or singspiel was repeated during the fifteen days. All nine performances included ballets; titles are given in the diary for six ballets, and one ballet, on 12 Dec, is unnamed. Two ballets were repeated: *Diane et Endymion*, based on Noverre, on 2 and 5 Dec; and a ballet that Nannerl calls "der ungerische zwiefelkrämmer" on 6 and 14 Dec. A poster from a performance by the Böhm company in Ulm on 31 May 1780 shows that the full title of this ballet was *Der betrogene Vormund, oder Der ungarische Zwiefelkrämer* ([Stadtarchiv Ulm, G 3 1670 - 1899 Theaterzettel 1670 - 1899, Fasz. 1670-1780 Nr. 177](#)); "Zwiefel" is Bavarian and

Austrian dialect for "Zwiebel" ("onion"), so the title translates as "The Betrayed Guardian, or The Hungarian Onion-Seller"). This ballet was performed at least four times during the Böhm company's subsequent season in Augsburg (on 30 Mar, 13 and 17 Apr, and 9 May; it is possible that "das ungarische Pas de Deux" listed for 7 Apr also refers to this ballet). The ballet's creator is not named, but Böhm's ballet master Elias Vogt or his brother Peter are likely candidates.

The diary entry for Thu, 2 Dec is in Wolfgang's hand. It gives an interesting snapshot of one of Böhm's performances, as well as typical examples of Mozart's wordplay:

den 2:ten das Theater durch ein glöckelzeichen  
nach geendigter *ouvertüre* zum 51:ten mahle  
eröffnet worden, mit einem *militairischen*  
Traum in 2 auf= und abzügen.  
Nach geendigten Stücke wurde durch Herrn  
Stierle auf folgenden Tag nämlich  
auf Freÿtag den # — angekündigt .....  
alsdan[n] wurde *Musiciert—Menuett* und  
*Trio—NB* öfters wiederholt—alsdan[n]  
ein *Allegro*—Endlich aber kam[m] *Böhm*  
ins *Orchestre*—und alles lebte auf—  
eine *introduction* wurde gespielt—  
und—kling kling!—der Vorhang  
auf—und da fing das *monologisiche*  
*Ballet* an—*Diana* und *Endimion*—  
und wie es aus war, kon[n]te Jederman[n]  
nach seinem belieben nach Hause gehen—  
fahren—oder Reiten.

[This transcription is based on the facsimile in Geffray 1998, 63; it varies in some details from the transcriptions given there, and from those in Briefe, ii:554–55, and Hummel, 65. On the conventions used for this transcription, see the *Notes* below.]

The 2nd. With the sound of a bell  
after the end of the overture, the  
theater was opened for the 51st  
time with *Ein militairischer Traum*  
in 2 acts and departures.  
After the end of the play Herr  
Stierle announced for the  
following day, Friday the # —.....  
Then there was music—Minuet and  
Trio—NB: frequently repeated—then  
an *Allegro*—Finally Böhm came into  
the orchestra—and everything livened  
up—an Introduction was played—and—  
Ding ding!—curtain up—and then

began the monologic ballet—*Diana und Endymion*—and when it was over, everyone could, as he preferred, walk, drive, or ride home.

(Mozart's play on words "Auf- und Abzüge" cannot be adequately rendered in English. "Aufzug" in this context means the "act" of a work for the stage, but it can also mean "parade" or "procession"; "Abzug" can mean "departure" or "decampment." Mozart's pun is, essentially, "*Ein militairischer Traum* in two marchings up and down.")

It seems that Böhm, who very likely performed as an actor in the main piece, then served as director of the orchestra in the ballet (probably as violinist), with the musicians "vamping till ready" as he changed out of his costume and made his way to his place in the orchestra. The title to which Mozart refers, *Ein militairischer Traum*, has not been identified. As far as we know, there was no performance the next day, on Fri, 3 Dec, and Mozart himself omits writing the day number; the next performance mentioned in Nannerl's diary is the day following, on Sat, 4 Dec.

Nannerl's diary survives in fragments because many of the original leaves with passages in Wolfgang's hand were cut up to give away as keepsakes. The second fragment of Nannerl's diary from the period of Böhm's second engagement in Salzburg originally consisted of a single leaf, with an entry in Wolfgang's hand filling one side, detailing the program of a concert on "the 18th" (the month is not named) in which several members from Böhm's company participated; Nannerl's subsequent entries for dates following the "18th" were on the reverse side of the original leaf. This leaf was at some point cut in half horizontally, and the upper and lower halves had different histories. The upper half contains Mozart's listings for items 1 through 5 of the concert on the "18th," and the reverse side contains Nannerl's entries for "the 21st" to "the 28th"; this half of the leaf is now in the collection of the Mozarteum in Salzburg (both sides are given in facsimile in Geffray 1998, 67 and 69). The lower half of the leaf, containing Mozart's entries for items 6 through 9 of the concert on the "18th," was originally attached to a page in the *Stammbuch* (album) of Alfred Ritter von Franck, now in the possession of the Wien Museum (formerly called the Historisches Museum der Stadt Wien). The lower half of the original leaf was apparently unknown to Hummel, who does not include a facsimile of it, but Geffray (1998, 67) gives a facsimile of the side with the continuation of Mozart's entry. The transcription in the third volume of *Briefe* (iii:3) gives only Wolfgang's side of the lower half of the original leaf, because when the volume was published in 1963, that half was still attached to the page in Franck's album, and the other side could not be read.

No month is named on the portions of the leaf that have been described so far, but Hummel and the editors of *Briefe* placed the concert on 18 Mar 1780, and dated Nannerl's entries on the top half of the reverse side to 21, 27, and 28 Mar, dates often repeated in subsequent Mozart literature. There is, however, a problem with this dating: Böhm's company gave the first performance of its second season in Augsburg on 28 Mar 1780, the same day that, by the accepted dating of the diary entries, Böhm and his wife had departed Salzburg. Hummel (1958, 68) recognized the problem, but dismissed it by saying that Nannerl's dates were often unreliable.

By the time of the publication of commentary on this leaf in volume 6 of *Briefe* (vi:3–5, published in 1971), it had been possible to detach the lower half of the leaf from Franck's album and read what was on the other side. The newly visible material reads:

hr und fr: zimerl [rest of line missing]  
hr Murschhausser in 2 waagen  
und in einem schlitten die 2 Dienstmägde  
von Böhm von hier auf augspurg gerreist.  
Das Monat Merz  
den 3[ten] wieder ein feuerwerk in der  
Sommer Reitschuhl.  
den 6[ten] der fürst von berchtolsgarn gestorben.  
den 7[ten] die geweste bauerfeind Stanzel

As Geffray recognized (as did, independently, Ruth Halliwell; see Halliwell 1998, 643–47), when the original leaf is "reassembled" (either mentally or using images), Nannerl's reference to "March" ("Merz") at the bottom of the page shows that her entries on the top half of that page should be dated 21, 27, and 28 Feb (not 21, 27, and 28 Mar), and Wolfgang's entry regarding the concert on the other side of the leaf should therefore be dated 18 Feb 1780 (not 18 Mar).

Nannerl's entries on the reconstructed leaf read in full:

d[en] 21t[en] auf 6 uhr auf die nacht ein feier=  
werk in der Sommer Reittschule.  
d[en] 27t[en] 2 wägen fortgefahren: in ersten  
wagen Hr und Fr *Müller*, Hr und Fr Stierle  
2 Kinder von der *Madame Müller*, und  
die Deinstmägde. d[er] 2t[e] wagen Hr und  
~~d 2t wagen~~  
*Madame smitt*, die Mutter von *Md*:  
Stierle, Hr und F Kerscher, ein Kind  
von *Md: smitt*. und die dienstmagd  
von *Madame smitt*.  
d[en] 28t[en] um 7 uhr *Mr: et Md*: Böhm ihre 3  
Kinder und *bilau* in einem wagen.  
hr und fr: zimerl und schwester  
und hr Murschhausser in 2 waagen  
und in einem schlitten die 2 Dienstmägde  
von Böhm von hier auf augspurg gerreist.  
Das Monat Merz  
den 3t wieder ein feuerwerk in der  
Sommer Reitschuhl.  
den 6t der fürst von berchtolsgarn gestorben.  
den 7t die geweste bauerfeind Stanzel

[Transcription amended from Geffray 1998, 68]

the 21st at 6 at night fireworks  
in the Summer Riding-School  
the 27th, 2 coaches departed: in the first  
coach Herr and Frau Müller, Herr and Frau Stierle,  
2 children of Madame Müller, and  
the servant girl. The second coach Herr and  
Madame Smitt, the mother of Madame  
Stierle, Herr and Frau Kerscher, a child  
of Madame Smitt.  
the 28th at 7 [am], Monsieur et Madame Böhm,  
their three children and Bilau in one coach.  
Herr and Frau Zimmerl and sister  
and Herr Murschhauser in 2 coaches  
and Böhm's 2 servant girls in a sled  
departed from here to Augsburg  
The month of March  
The 3rd. Again fireworks in the Summer Riding-School  
The 6th. Prince von Berchtesgaden died.  
The 7th, Stanzel [i. e. Konstanze] née Bauernfeind

This makes perfect sense chronologically, and also makes sense in seasonal context: Ash Wednesday (the end of Böhm's commitment in Salzburg) fell on 9 Feb 1780, and 28 Mar (the day of the Böhm company's first performance in Augsburg) was the Tuesday after Easter, a common day on which to start a new theatrical season. The fact that fireworks began at 6 pm in Salzburg on 21 Feb, when it would still have been dark at that early hour, likewise makes sense. The Böhm company left Salzburg on 27 and 28 Feb 1780, and Mozart's concert (which included performances by members of Böhm's company) took place on 18 Feb 1780, roughly halfway between the end of their theatrical season and their departure for Augsburg. The diary entries also make clear that Nannerl Mozart had become friendly enough with members of Böhm's company to see them off on two successive days and to give detailed lists in her diary of which people were traveling in which coaches.

All but one of the names mentioned by Nannerl appear in the report in the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* cited above, and in the rosters for Böhm's company in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1780 (231): Herr and Frau Müller ("Miller" in the *Theater-Kalender*), Herr and Frau Stierle, Herr and Madame Smitt (Nannerl's "Herr Smitt" is probably the "Herr Schmidt" in the *Theater-Journal*), Herr Kerscher (his wife seems not to have acted with the company), Herr Bilau ("Bühlau" in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1780, "Bilau" in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781), and Herr and Frau Zimmerl. Most of these names still appear on the company's roster in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 (cxxxv–cxxxvi), as does that of Herr Murschhauser, the one name in Nannerl's diary that does not appear in the *Theater-Kalender* from the previous year; Murschhauser is described in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 as "erster Bravoursänger im Singspiele" (leading bravura singer in singspiels). The company evidently traveled with spouses (not all of whom were performers), as well as children, servants, and even the mother of one of the performers.

Mozart's listing of the program for the concert of 18 Feb 1780 is full of wordplay and puns on the names of the participants. The names are deciphered in the commentary in *Briefe* (vi:4), so there is no need to recapitulate the identifications here (for a helpful discussion in English of Mozart's concert program, see Zaslaw 1989, 340–42; note, however, that Zaslaw still dates the concert to 18 Mar 1780). The members of Böhm's company who participated in the concert were Marianne Böhm (Böhm's wife), Madame Schmitt, Herr Zimmerl, Herr Kerscher, and Herr Murschhauser. Madame Schmitt sang an unidentified Italian aria; Madame Böhm, Herr Zimmerl, and Herr Kerscher an unidentified "three-voiced terzett" ("ein dreystimmiges Terzett," as Mozart playfully put it) by Salieri; and Madame Böhm sang an aria by Grétry accompanied by Joseph Fiala on oboe and Herr Murschhauser on harp. The sixth number of the program, Mozart writes, was "die aria von trompetten, paucke, flötten, *oboe*: bratschen, fagotte und Bässe von *mir*" ("the aria with trumpets, timpani, flutes, oboes, violas, bassoons and basses by *me*"). Mozart does not name the singer or the work, but it has been suggested (*Briefe* vi:4; Zaslaw 1989, 342) that this may have been "Dentro il mio petto," no. 3 in *La finta giardiniera*, sung by Herr Murschhauser (the aria became "[In meiner Brust erhallet](#)" in *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*). The aria was followed on the program by the first-act finale of *L'incognita perseguitata* by Anfossi, an opera that, like *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*, was about to be (or perhaps already had been) taken into the performing repertory of the Böhm company in Stierle's translation as *Die verfolgte Unbekannte*.

In spite of a lack of direct documentary evidence to verify the connection, there can be little doubt that the adaptation of Mozart's *La finta giardiniera* as *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was prepared specifically for Böhm's company, probably at Böhm's request and with Mozart's participation, possibly because Böhm was attempting to increase the number of singspiels in his repertory with music in the style of Italian opera buffa. There is no reason to doubt that the translation of the opera's libretto was made by Johann Franz Joseph Stierle, a member of Böhm's company, who was personally acquainted with the Mozarts, as we know from Nannerl's diary. The detailed timeline of the creation of the adaptation remains unknown: it may be that it was first discussed during Böhm's first engagement in Salzburg in the spring of 1779, or perhaps not until his second engagement there beginning in Sep 1779. On the basis of the available evidence, we cannot say whether the German version of *La finta giardiniera* was performed in Salzburg during the Böhm company's second engagement (Nannerl surely would have mentioned it in her diary had the opera been given during the company's first engagement in Salzburg). Some scholars have stated with assurance that the opera was performed in Salzburg, while others (for example, the *NMA* edition of the opera) have claimed with equal confidence that it was not. In fact we simply do not have sufficient evidence to say one way or the other. Böhm's second season in Salzburg lasted five months (from early Sep 1779 to 9 Feb 1780, Ash Wednesday); based on the numbering of the performances in Nannerl's diary in Dec 1779 and the frequency of performance suggested by her entries, we can extrapolate that the company gave at least 80 performances during its second season in Salzburg. We know the titles of the main works performed for just nine of these.

Böhm's ballet master Elias Vogt married Josepha Amor in Salzburg on 26 Jan 1780 (see Rech 1975, 190). Amor is listed as an actress in Böhm's company in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1780



(231, based on information from 1779) and is mentioned in the long report on Böhm in issue 15 of the *Theater-Journal* (113) transcribed above. The date of death of Vogt's first wife, Maria Josepha, is unknown.

### Böhm's second engagement in Augsburg (28 Mar to 19 May 1780) (↑)

*Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was performed twice during the Böhm company's second engagement in Augsburg. The company's program in Augsburg is known from two sources that do not quite agree with one another. The *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* (no. 17, 103–7) gives a complete program for the company's second season in Augsburg, from 28 Mar (the Tuesday after Easter) to 19 May 1780; the *Theater-Journal* is the source for the transcriptions at the top of this page. Unlike the program for the Böhm company's first engagement in Augsburg in 1779, for which the *Theater-Journal* is the only known source, there is (or was) a second source for the program of the company's second season in Augsburg: Franz Xaver Rigler's *Verzeichnis der Komödien, Operetten und Ballette, die während der Augsburger Spielzeit des Jahres 1780 aufgeführt wurden* (cited in Deininger 1943, 381ff). Rigler was souffleur (prompter) for the Böhm company and also a dancer (his name is given incorrectly in the Gotha Theater-Kalender for 1781 as "Giegler", corrected to "Riegler" in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1783). The *Theater-Journal* and Rigler's *Verzeichnis* agree that *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was first performed in Augsburg on 1 May 1780, the 21st performance of the Böhm company's season. However, the two sources disagree on the works performed over the last five days of the company's season in Augsburg, 15–19 May 1780. The *Theater-Journal* (no. 17, 106) gives:

- 15 May     *Die verfolgte Unbekannte* (= *L'incognita perseguitata*)  
Ballet: *Die Schule des Tanzes*
- 16 May     *Das gute Mädchen* (= *La buona figliuola*)  
Ballet: "Divertissement"
- 17 May     *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* (= *La finta giardiniera*)  
"englisches Ballet"
- 18 May     [no performance listed]
- 19 May     *Die Kolonie* (Sacchini's *L'isola d'amore*–*La colonie*)  
A speech by Herr Böhm marking the end of the company's season

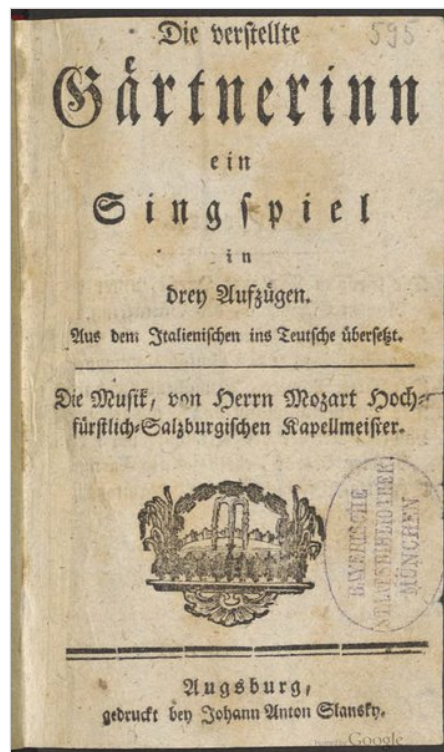
According to Deininger, Rigler's *Verzeichnis* gives the program for these days as follows:

- 15 May     *Das gute Mädchen* (*La buona figliuola*)  
An unnamed ballet
- 16 May     *Die schöne Wienerin* (a play by Paul Weidmann)  
[no ballet listed]
- 17 May     *Die Kolonie* (Sacchini)  
Ballet: *Medea und Jason* (Noverre)
- 18 May     *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* (*La finta giardiniera*)  
A "new" ballet

19 May     *Die verfolgte Unbekannte (L'incognita perseguitata)*  
"Dedikations-Ballett" and a closing speech by Herr Böhm

Because Rigler was a member of Böhm's company, his information is probably more reliable. For that reason, it seems more likely that the second performance of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* took place on 18 May 1780, rather than 17 May as reported in the *Theater-Journal*.

Robert Münster discovered a printed libretto for the Augsburg performance of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* (Münster 1965), which became source O for the edition of *La finta giardiniera* in the *Neue Mozart-Ausgabe* (NMA II/5/8, Kritischer Bericht, 2004). The libretto is in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Bavarian State Library), under the shelfmark [Slg.Her 595](#)—apparently part of the same collection as the Salzburg scenario for *Adelheid von Ponthieu* ([Slg.Her B 285](#)). The Augsburg libretto of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was published in facsimile in vol. 4 of *The Librettos of Mozart's Operas*, edited by Ernest Warburton (Garland, 1992). Like the scenario for *Adelheid von Ponthieu*, it is now available online as a good color facsimile ([BSB](#); [Google Books](#)).



Neither source for the performances of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg names Mozart as the composer, but *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* is listed as one of his works for the German stage in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 ([xxxv–xxxvi](#)), the first installment of that almanac to appear after the Augsburg premiere of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in May 1780:

[xxxv]

Mozard . . . Kapellmeister zu Salzburg:  
Semiramis, musikalisch Drama des Freyh. von

[xxxvi]

Gemmingen. *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*, Operette.

Deutsch (*Dokumente*, 206) includes a later entry from the *Theater-Kalender* for 1785 that names *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* among Mozart's works for the German stage, along with *Semiramis* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. But he overlooked this earlier entry in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781, the first to mention *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*. (In 1778 Mozart began to compose a melodrama based on Otto von Gemmingen's *Semiramis*, K. 315e = Anh. 11, but it was apparently never completed, and the autograph is lost. The editor of the *Theater-Kalender*, Heinrich August Ottokar Reichard, continued for several years to list *Semiramis* among Mozart's German stage works, suggesting that he sometimes could be less than meticulous in correcting and updating his listings.)

The report on Böhm's company in number 17 of the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* again includes an illuminating overview of the company's engagement in Augsburg and its reception there, and is worth quoting at length (note, however, that the dates at the beginning of the report are misleading):

Augsburg, den 4. Apr. 1780.

Herr Böhm kam mit seiner Gesellschaft im Jahr 1779 nach Augsburg und blieb bis auf den 20. May. Er hatte damals ganz außerordentlichen Beyfall; in den schönsten Sommertagen, wenn auch schon eine Oper, denn diese führte er meistens auf, zu drittenmal repetirt wurde, so war das Theater doch schon um 5 Uhr Abends, das ist eine Stunde vor dem bestimmten Anfang, völlig angefüllt, und wer Augsburg kennt und weiß, wie sehr bey dem Höchsten, wie bey dem Geringsten die Liebe zum Spazierenfahren und Gehen herrscht, dem wird dieses desto auffallender seyn, destomehr gereicht es aber dem Augsburschen Publikum zum Lobe, daß es aus Liebe zu guter Musik, seine Lieblingsneigung aufgeopfert. Hr. Böhme gab sich auch alle Mühe, diesen Beyfall zu verdienen. Mit dem Singspiel Robert und Kaliste und dem Ballet von Noverra [sic]: Adelheid von Ponthieu eröffnete er das Theater; darauf folgten das gute Mädchen und *la Frescatana*, diese drey Opern konnten nicht genug repetirt werden; dazwischen führte er auch Operetten aus dem Französischen und andere Ballette von Noverra auf. Auf den Winter mußte er nach Salzburg; inzwischen erhielt er vom Magistrat zu Augsburg die Erlaubnis, von Ostern 1780.

bis Ostern 1781. hier zu spielen, und da man den ganzen Winter keine Komödien hatte, so wurde er mit desto größerer Sehnsucht erwartet, da er denn sogleich den 28. März 1780. mit dem Trauerspiel Elfriede und dem Ballet Themire und Thyrsis den Anfang machte. [...]

[The article continues with the company's program from 28 Mar to 19 May 1780, with a few brief additional comments on visiting performers and the like. The report then continues:]

Aus diesem Verzeichnisse sehen Sie lauter Sing=spiele, nur zwey Trauerspiele und wenig gute Lustspiele. Sie würden aber dem augsburgischen Publikum großes Unrecht thun, wenn Sie davon auf seinen Geschmack schlies=sen wollten, denn so angenehm ihm auch die Singspiele sind, so großes Verlangen hat dasselbe auch nach guten Lust= und Trauerspielen, und es ist auch wirklich dem Hrn. Böhme, als er Erlaubnis zu spielen bekam, die Bedingnis gesetzt worden, daß er sich mit guten Akteuren und Aktrizen zu Komödien versehen sollte. Warum es noch nicht geschehen, und warum er statt guten Lustspie=len, schlechte wählt, ist mir unbekannt; die viele leere Plätze in seinen Lustspielen sollten ihn doch praktisch über=zeugt haben, wie wenig Gefallen man daran in Augsburg habe: mit englischen und hamburgschen Stücken würde er sein Glück gewiß besser machen.—

Seine Garderobe ist schön, so schön als sie an einem Hofe immer seyn kann. Die sämmtl. theatralischen Unkosten belaufen sich wöchentlich auf 410 Gulden, und jährlich auf 21320 Gulden.

Den 21. May mußte Hr. Böhm mit seiner Gesellschaft nach Ulm, von da er vermutlich nach Nürnberg gehen wird, den Winter aber hindurch wird er sich in Augsburg aufhalten.

[[Theater-Journal für Deutschland, no. 17, 103–7](#)]

[translation:]

Augsburg, 4 Apr 1780

Herr Böhm came to Augsburg with his company in the year 1779 and stayed until 20 May [1780]. He had at that time an entirely extraordinary reception: on the most beautiful summer days, even when an opera (for he performed mostly these) was repeated for the third time, the theater was already completely full by 5 in the evening, that is, an hour before the prescribed start, and to those who know Augsburg and know how greatly the love

of riding and strolling prevails among both the highest and lowest orders, this will be all the more remarkable; but it redounds all the more to the favor of the Augsburg public that it sacrifices its favorite pastime to good music. Herr Böhm makes every effort to deserve this reception. He opened the theater with the singspiel *Robert und Kalliste* and Noverre's ballet *Adelheid von Ponthieu*; this was followed by *Das gute Mädchen* and *La frascatana*. These three operas could not be given often enough. In between he also performed operettas from the French and other ballets by Noverre. In the winter he had to return to Salzburg; in the meantime, he obtained from the magistrate in Augsburg permission to play here from Easter 1780 to Easter 1781, and because we had no theater here for the entire winter, all the greater was the desire with which he was awaited, as he immediately began on 28 Mar 1780 with the tragedy *Elfriede* and the ballet *Themire und Thyrsis* [...]

[...]

On this list you see mainly singspiels, only two tragedies and few good comedies. However, you would do the Augsburg public a great injustice if you were to infer its taste from this; for as pleasant as it finds these singspiels, it also has a great craving for good comedies and tragedies, and in fact a condition was placed on Herr Böhm, when he sought permission to perform, that he should provide good actors and actresses for the plays. Why this has not yet happened is unknown to me: the many empty seats at his comedies should effectively have convinced him how little these pleased in Augsburg: he would have better luck with plays from England and Hamburg.

His costumes are beautiful, as beautiful as they could ever be at any court. The complete theatrical expenses run to 410 gulden weekly, and 21320 gulden yearly.

On 21 May Herr Böhm and his company had to leave for Ulm; from there he probably will go on to Nuremberg, but will spend the winter in Augsburg.

The dates at the beginning of this report are misleading, as they imply that Böhm came to Augsburg in 1779 and remained until 20 May 1779 (as one might initially read it) or 20 May 1780, implying that he remained in Augsburg for the entire period. However, the report later clarifies (correctly) that Böhm's company had spent the winter of 1779–80 in Salzburg. (The dateline at the head of the report, 4 Apr 1780, obviously cannot be literally true, given that it lists Böhm's program through 19 May 1780 and mentions his departure for Ulm on 21 May.) The details of the company's first season in Augsburg are correct: Böhm opened with *Robert und Kalliste* and the ballet *Adelheid von Ponthieu* on 11 Jun 1779; *Robert und Kalliste*, *Die gute*

*Mädchen*, and *La frascata* (all translations of Italian opere buffe) were all repeated (five, three, and three times, respectively). The report thus supports the hypothesis that Böhm's Italian-derived singspiels had been a particular hit with the Augsburg public, and that their good reception may have persuaded him to bolster his repertory in that genre, which in turn may have been the motivation behind his request for a translation and adaptation of Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*.

During the company's second engagement in Augsburg, it gave 34 performances of 33 different pieces. There were two double bills, and only three of the main works were repeated, all singspiels: *Die beiden Geizigen* (from *Les deux avares*, with music by Grétry, on 6 and 21 Apr); *Das Fischer mädchen* (from Piccinni's *La pescatrice*, on 13 and 18 Apr), and Mozart's *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* (on 1 and mostly likely 18 May). All but one of the company's performances during this engagement included a ballet (the exception is Möller's tragedy *Graf von Waltron*). The marked increase in the size of Böhm's company between 1779 and 1780, as reported in the rosters in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1780 and 1781, suggests that he did attempt to abide by the condition set by the Augsburg authorities that he provide better actors and actresses for the spoken plays. *Die Belustigung im Garten Cythere*, the ballet given with *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* on 1 May 1780 had also been performed by the company on 4 Apr. Its creator is unknown, but again, Böhm's ballet master Elias Vogt or his brother Peter are likely candidates.

## Böhm in Ulm, Nuremberg, and Frankfurt (1780) (↑)

Böhm's company did indeed go to Ulm after leaving Augsburg, just as the report states. A complete set of posters from their engagement in Ulm survives in the city's archive ([Stadtarchiv Ulm, G 3 1670 - 1899 Theaterzettel 1670 - 1899](#)). The company gave 19 performances in Ulm across a span of 25 days; it performed every weekday, but never on Saturday or Sunday, probably because of local restrictions. Ten plays were given and nine singspiels; no work was repeated. Eight of the works performed in Ulm appear to have been new additions to the company's repertory: they had not been performed during either of the company's seasons in Augsburg and are not known to have been performed during either of its seasons in Salzburg. These new works included three plays, three ballets, and two singspiels (*Der Hufschmied, oder Ich bin ein Doktor und kann nicht schreiben* on 31 May, and *Die Insel der gesunden Vernunft* on 8 Jun). *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was not given in Ulm; of the "Italian" singspiels in the company's repertory at that time, it performed *Robert und Kalliste* on 25 May, *Das gute Mädchen* on 29 May, *Die verfolgte Unbekannte* on 5 Jun, and *La frascata* on 16 Jun. While still in Augsburg, Böhm had, on 17 May 1780, been granted permission by the authorities in Nuremberg (Nürnberg) to perform there (see [Hampe 1899, 221, entry 848](#)), and his company began an engagement in that city on 29 Jun 1780 ([Mayer 1843, 36](#); [Hysel 1863, 57–58](#)), which seems to have lasted into Sep 1780, although the exact ending date is unclear (Mayer and Hysel both give 28 Sep, but this conflicts with the beginning of Böhm's next engagement, in Frankfurt). Böhm's company had its first engagement in Frankfurt from 18 Sep to 28 Nov 1780; the complete program for Frankfurt can be reconstructed from Böhm's announcements in the *Frankfurter Staats-Ristretto* (see [Mentzel](#)



1882, 532–35); *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* was not performed. The subsequent history of Böhm's company and its later performances of the German version of *La finta giardiniera*, as well as its performances of other works by Mozart, is taken up in the commentary for 2 Apr 1782.

The variety and quick turnover of the Böhm company's repertory is extraordinary: between 11 Jun 1779, its first performance in Augsburg, and 16 Jun 1780, its final performance in Ulm, it performed at least 84 different works (and it must be kept in mind that we have information about only nine of at least 80 performances by the company during its second engagement in Salzburg). The company performed at least 33 different plays, 26 singspiels, and 25 named ballets (no title is given in the documentary sources for several other ballets). Main pieces were rarely repeated during an engagement, and those that were repeated were mainly popular singspiels. When the Böhm company returned to Augsburg for its second season beginning 28 Mar 1780, 24 of the 33 main pieces had not been performed during its previous engagement there. The feats of memory required of the actors strike a modern observer as extraordinary. The rapidity with which they learned new repertory is also astonishing: during the company's first season in Frankfurt beginning in Sep 1780, nearly all of the works performed are not known to have been performed during the company's engagements in Salzburg, Augsburg, or Ulm.

## Böhm and Mozart (↑)

Mozart subsequently mentions Böhm in two letters to his cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart ("Bäsle") in Augsburg. One is dated 24 Apr 1780, just under two months after Böhm departed Salzburg and one month into the company's second engagement in Augsburg. Mozart dates the other letter "Salsbourg den 10ten May 1709ni" (according to the transcription in *Briefe*, ii:547). An editorial note to the transcription interprets this to mean 10 May 1779, but the commentary to the same letter (*Briefe* v:586) argues, surely correctly, that the letter should be dated to 10 May 1780. It therefore follows the letter of 24 Apr.

In his letter to Bäsle on 24 Apr 1780 letter Mozart writes:

Es sind nun 14 Tage daß ich Mr Böhm geantwortet habe—Mir liegt nur daran zu wissen daß mein Schreiben nicht zu Verlust gegangen, welches mir sehr leid wäre—denn, sonst weis ich nur zu gut, daß M.r Böhm alle tage nur zu sehr occupirt ist—dem seye wie ihm wolle, so bitte ich Sie in Jedem fall, mein lieber knall, Tausend complimenten zu machen,—und ich warte nur auf einen Wink von ihm, so ist die Aria aldort fertig—  
[This transcription is taken from *Briefe*, Nachträge, iv: 535.]

It has been 14 days now since I answered Monsieur Böhm. So I'd just like to know that my letter has not gone missing, which would make me very unhappy—for I am only too well aware that Monsieur Böhm is all too busy every day—however it may be with him, I'm asking you in any case my dear clang to give him a thousand compliments—and I await only a nod from him, and the aria will be there, finished.



In a postscript to his letter to Bäsle on 10 May 1780, Mozart again refers to Böhm:

P.S: Ist die Böhmische trup schon weck—sagen sie mirs, meine Beste, ich bitte um Himmelswillen! — — — Sie wird nun in ulm seyn, nicht wahr?

P. S. Is the Böhm troupe already gone?—Tell me, my dear, for heaven's sake! — — — They will now be in Ulm, no?

This fits with the known chronology of Böhm's company. They gave the final performance of their second season in Augsburg on 19 May 1780, and thus had not yet left the city when Mozart was writing, but they were about to. And their next engagement was indeed in Ulm, where they gave their first performance on 23 May. Mozart's letter of 24 Apr 1780 suggests that he had promised to write or adapt an aria for Böhm, but no such aria is known to survive.

In a letter to his father written from Munich on 10 and 11 Jan 1781, Mozart passes along the latest gossip about various members of Böhm's troupe:

Nun, ich weis nichts neues ihnen zu schreiben—als daß ich, durch den buckelichen brudern von der Mad:me zimerl |: Berühmten fleckausbringer |: welcher mit der Mad: ludwig von Salzburg hier ist, und zusammen wie Man und frau leben, gehört habe, und zwar für gewis: —daß die storchenfelds: von Böhm weg sind—Murschhauser auch; —der Peter Vogt schon lange weg—und der Elias—seine frau wirklich sitzen lassen, und durchgegangen ist.—das Böhm in Mainz ist—daß die Zimmerlischen und Müllerischen auch von ihn weg waren, aber so bald er Mainz hatte, wieder zu ihm gegangen sind.—wenn ich Zeit hätte, hätte ich ihm schon längst zugeschrieben nur um etwas Neues zu hören.  
[*Briefe*, iii:86]

Now, I don't have anything new to write to you—except that I have heard, and indeed as fact, from the hunchbacked brother of Madame Zimmerl (the famous spot-remover) who is here with Madame Ludwig of Salzburg, and living together as man and wife: — that the Storchenfelds have left Böhm—Murschhauser too;—Peter Vogt is long gone—and Elias—has left his wife behind and run off—that Böhm is in Mainz—that the Zimmerls and Müllers had also left him, but came back as soon as he had Mainz. — If I had time, I would have written to him long ago, if only to hear some news.

The Herr and Madame Storchinfeld are listed as dancers in the roster for Böhm's company in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 ([cxxxxvi](#), referring to 1780). In a letter to Nannerl of 15 Dec 1781, Mozart writes: "der Elias vogt ist beym Böhm, und der Peterl ist in Berlin" ("Elias is with Böhm, and Peterl is in Berlin"). That Mozart uses the diminutive "Peterl" for Peter Vogt suggests that the Mozarts had developed a close friendship with him in Salzburg. The subsequent careers of Elias and Peter Vogt are discussed in the commentary to the entry for [2 Apr 1782](#).

It has often been said that Mozart's music for Gebler's *Thamos, König in Aegypten* (K. 345/336a) in its revised and complete form—namely the revised versions of the two choruses that Mozart had first written for performances of the play in Vienna in 1774, along with a newly added closing chorus setting a text perhaps written by Andreas Schachtner and instrumental music for

the *entr’actes*—was finished in 1779 for the use of Böhm’s troupe. This theory is promoted, for example, by Alfred Einstein in the third edition of the Köchel catalog, in Harald Heckmann’s edition of the music for the *Neue Mozart-Ausgabe* (II/6/1, preface, vii), and *Dokumente* (130). However, there is no known evidence that Böhm’s company ever performed *Thamos*, in Salzburg or anywhere else. All three paper-types in Mozart’s autograph of the *Thamos* music (Tyson 36, 40, and 41) are consistent with a date of 1775–1776. Karl Wahr’s theatrical company was in Salzburg in late 1775 and early 1776, and is known to have performed *Thamos* there on 3 Jan 1776 (see the review in the *Theaterwochenblatt für Salzburg*, no. 18, 17 Jan 1776, [209–10](#), where the music is said to have been too long, and perhaps unnecessary). It seems certain, then, that Mozart made the revisions and additions to the *Thamos* music for Wahr, and that these had nothing to do with Böhm. (For a more detailed discussion of this question, see Zaslav 2007, 56–59.) Böhm’s later use of the *Thamos* music in performances of Karl Martin Plümicke’s *Lanassa*, apparently with Mozart’s symphony K. 184 as an overture, is discussed in the commentary to [2 Apr 1782](#).

Mozart’s uncompleted singspiel *Zaide* (K. 344) has sometimes been said to have been composed with Böhm’s company in mind. The paper-types of the autograph (Tyson 51-I and 52) are consistent with a dating to 1779/80, but there is no additional documentary evidence to support a connection with Böhm.

---

## Notes ( [↑](#) )

Deutsch (*Dokumente*, 167) refers to the performance of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg on 1 May 1780, but cites no source. The *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* was not consulted by Deutsch (*Dokumente*), Eibl (*Addenda*), or Eisen (*Neue Folge*). Bacher (1929, 111) may be the earliest writer to have cited issue 17 of the *Theater-Journal* as a source for the dates of the performances of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg.

The *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* was edited by Heinrich August Ottokar Reichard, also the editor of the Gotha *Theater-Kalender*. The *Theater-Journal* appeared in 22 issues (“Stücke”) from 1777 to 1784; issues are undated apart from year of publication. Individual issues are available on Google Books.

Deininger ([1943](#), [393](#)) implies that Rigler’s *Verzeichnis* (the second source for Böhm’s program in Augsburg in 1780) was printed, but it has not yet been possible to determine whether the copy that Deininger used (in the Theater-Akten in the Stadtarchiv Augsburg) still survives. No other copy of Rigler’s *Verzeichnis* has yet been located. (See [this list](#) of the holdings of the Stadtarchiv Augsburg, in which the “Theater und öffentliche Produktionen” are cataloged as “Rep. Nr. 370,” covering the period 1549 to after 1806. At present, no detailed information for that series is available through the archive’s website.) Fellmann (1928, 4) refers to posters (“Theaterzetteln”) for Böhm’s performances in Augsburg, but it is unclear whether any such posters still survive.

The uncertainty regarding the date of the second performance of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* (17 or 18 May 1780) is frequently noted in the secondary literature (see, for example, Münster 1965, 138 and note 2, and *NMA* II/5/8/1, xiv), but the reason for the uncertainty is explained only in Deininger (1943, 397). No secondary source other than Deininger cites Rigler's *Verzeichnis* on the performances of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*. Fellmann (1928, 83) lists performances of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg on 1 and 17 May 1780, but does not directly cite his source; however, he refers elsewhere (page 5, note 1) to issue 17 of the *Theater-Journal*, which was probably his source for these dates.

*Briefe* includes an extensive entry on Böhm and his company in the commentary to Leopold Mozart's letter of 10 Dec 1778 (v:573–74), but the commentary relies entirely on Fellmann (1928), Deininger (1943), and Münster (1965 and 1966); it gives no direct citations of the relevant primary sources. The commentary on the entries in Nannerl's diary for 2 to 16 Dec 1779 (*Briefe*, v:591) contains a significant and misleading error: "Der Theaterprinzpal Johann Heinrich Böhm, dessen Truppe bis Anfang Sept 1779 in Salzburg gastierte . . ." Böhm's company was in fact in Augsburg from 11 Jun to 1 Sep 1779, not in Salzburg. The commentary should read "bis Anfang Juni 1779."

Ulrich Konrad's *Einführung und Ergänzungen* to *Briefe* (2006, viii:119–20) also points out that the "mr: vogt" mentioned in Nannerl's diary entry for 19 Apr 1779 (*Briefe*, ii:544) is probably Elias, given her specific reference to "Elias Vogt" in her diary entry for 1 Jun 1779. However, Konrad writes that it "seems uncertain" (erscheint nicht sicher) whether Leopold Mozart's reference to "H: Vogt" in his letter of 10 Dec 1778 (*Briefe*, ii:519) refers to Peter or Elias. As explained above, Peter was with the company of Karl Wahr in Preßburg and Prague in 1779, and is not known to have been in Salzburg in Dec 1778. So Leopold's reference is probably to Elias.

None of the entries on Böhm in standard biographical reference works is entirely satisfactory, and most contain significant errors or omissions. The best short biographical reference is arguably the article on Böhm by Peter Branscombe in *Grove Music Online* [gated]. A useful collection of links on Böhm can be found at [bayerisches musiker lexikon online](#). Böhm seems to have composed for the theater, as well as acting and sometimes directing the orchestra, although this facet of his activity has not been studied. In addition to his singspiel *Der verkaufte Braut*, performed in Salzburg on 9 Dec 1779, Böhm is said in the catalog of composers in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 (xxxi) to have composed *Das Muster der Liebe*, *Die Braut im Schleyer*, *Philander*, and *Philemon und Baucis*.

Unger's first names are given as "Christian Gottlieb" in Münster (1975, 36, note 13); the *NMA* edition of *La finta giardiniera* (II/5/8/1, xiii, citing Münster); and Schwemmer (2010, see esp. 172, note 202). None of these gives a source for the names, but Schwemmer's dissertation is presumably based on direct inspection of the original documents in the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Dresden. The name is given as "Christian Gottlieb Unger" in an online listing from that archive: "[Des Legationsrats Christian Gottlieb Unger Relationen aus München](#)," undoubtedly the same Unger who reported on the first performances of *La finta giardiniera*.

Deutsch (*Dokumente*, 135) attributes the report on the premiere of *La finta giardiniera* to "J. F. Unger," without giving a source for the initials. The annotated English translation of Abert's revised 5th edition of Jahn's Mozart biography, by Stewart Spencer and Cliff Eisen, expands the abbreviation to "Johann

Friedrich Unger" without citing a source for the names (for the first such reference, see Abert 2007, 165, note 3; the names "Johann Friedrich" also appear in some subsequent references). Abert in fact gave the name simply as "Unger" (see Abert 1919, vol. 1, 365, note 2 and *passim*) just as it had already appeared in Jahn's second edition; Spencer and Eisen have added the names "Johann Friedrich" without explanation or source. [Johann Friedrich Unger](#) (1753–1804) was a noted publisher in Berlin, but there is no reason to think that the Saxon official in Munich was also "Johann Friedrich." The name "Christian Gottlieb Unger" is almost certainly correct.

Unger is universally cited in the Mozart literature as "secretary" to the Saxon legation in Dresden (see, *inter alia*, *Dokumente*, 135). However, as Schwemmer explains (Schwemmer 2010, 172, note 202), Unger held the position of secretary only until 1769, at which point he became "Legationsrat" (Legation Counselor), which was therefore his proper title at the time of the premiere of *La finta giardiniera*. Unger's reports are universally said in the Mozart literature to have come from his "diary" ("Tagebuch"). In the holdings of the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, on the other hand, they are described as "reports": "Münchener Berichte vom Legationssekretär Unger an die Kurfürstin Witwe Maria Antonia" ("Munich Reports of Legation Secretary Unger to Electoral Widow Maria Antonia"; Unger is referred to as "Secretary" in the archival listing because that was his position when the reports began in 1767). Schwemmer refers to the reports as "diary entries," and explains:

Jeder Tagebucheintrag enthält ein Datum, wobei in den einzelnen Einträgen die Ereignisse am Hof an mehreren Tagen zusammen gefasst sind. So enthält z. B. der Eintrag am 26. März die Schilderungen vom vorausgegangenen Sonntag bis einschließlich Mittwoch.

Every diary entry includes a date, under which are summarized the individual entries on the events at court over several days. Thus, for example, the entry for [Thu] 26 Mar [1772] contains descriptions from the preceding Sunday up to and including Wednesday.

Elsewhere, however, the description of Unger's documents as "reports" seems to have led Schwemmer astray. In regard to musical events in Jan 1775, for example, he refers to Unger's report of 26 Jan as a "letter" ("Brief"; Schwemmer 2010, 176, note 225), suggesting that he was unaware that Maria Antonia was visiting the court in Munich at the time, and was not in Dresden. (Schwemmer's bibliography does not include Weber's 1857 biography of Maria Antonia Walpurgis, which discusses her stay in Munich in 1774 and 1775.) Jahn recognized already in the first edition of his Mozart biography that Maria Antonia Walpurgis was in Munich at the time of the premiere of *La finta giardiniera* ([Jahn 1856, i:236](#)).

Unger's reports are collected in nine volumes; those referring to *La finta giardiniera* are in the ninth volume. The citation for volume 9 is given on the archive's website as: [Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, 10026 Geheimes Kabinett, Nr. Loc. 03292/14](#). (Schwemmer gives the citation, apparently incorrectly, as "Loc. 3292/15.") The document is housed at the Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden.

In addition to the significant discrepancies noted above between Weber's transcription of Unger's report on the premiere of *La finta giardiniera* and those given by Jahn and Deutsch, there are two additional minor differences. Weber writes "Vendredi LL. AA. RR. EE. assisterent à la premiere," whereas Jahn and Deutsch have "Vendredi L. A. R. E. assistèrent à la premiere," silently adding the (correct) grave accent to "assistèrent" but removing it from "à."

The passage from Unger's report on the premiere of *La finta giardiniera* is also given in Rudhart (1865, 161–62) citing Weber. Like Jahn, Rudhart gives the citation not quite correctly as "Weber's 'Marie Antonie'," rather than "Maria Antonia." Also like Jahn, Rudhart incorrectly gives "L. A. R. E." and omits the final sentence. Because Jahn's version follows Rudhart in these errors, rather than Weber, it may be that Rudhart was Jahn's actual source, and that it is Rudhart's version of Weber's transcription that has been handed down through the subsequent Mozart literature. Note, however, that Rudhart gives "Vendredi L. A. R. E. asistèrent à la premiere," with the correct accent on "à," but an incorrect acute accent on "asistèrent," which is also missing an 's'.

Münster (1975) does not include Unger's report on the premiere of *La finta giardiniera*, perhaps because it was already published in Deutsch. He gives an incorrect date for Unger's report of the second performance, "2. Januar 1775," instead of 2 Feb 1775 (Münster 1975, 31). There are a few small discrepancies between Münster's transcriptions of Unger's entries for the performances on 2 Feb and 2 Mar 1775, and those in *NMA* II/5/8/1. These discrepancies will not be detailed here, except to note that in the entry for 2 Mar, Münster gives "braconniers" ("poachers") and the *NMA* gives "branconniers" (which is not a French word). For any future consolidated documentary biography of Mozart, the transcriptions of Unger's three entries should be checked against the original source.

We are very grateful to Michael Lorenz for locating Viennese archival records on the Vogt family and sharing them with us. Peter Vogt's baptism on 26 Jan 1749 is recorded in Vienna, St. Stephan, [Taufbuch, 1/78](#), 32r (image 63 online); Elias Vogt's baptism on 1 Feb 1751 is recorded in Vienna, St. Stephan, [Taufbuch, 1/79](#), 18v (image 35 online); Franz Vogt's baptism on 29 Mar 1753 is recorded in Vienna, St. Stephan, [Taufbuch, 1/80](#), 57v (image 113 online); and the marriage of Elias Vogt to Maria Josepha Obinger on 9 May 1768 is recorded in Vienna, St. Stephan, [Trauungsbuch 2/64](#), 158v (image 316 online). The otherwise excellent article on the versions of Angiolini and Gluck's *Don Juan* in the eighteenth century by Sybille Dahms (2007) follows previous literature in naming Peter Vogt as Böhm's ballet master, which he very likely was not. It seems probable that Peter Vogt had not yet joined Böhm's company by the time of its performances of *Don Juan* in Augsburg in the summer of 1779; this does not, however, necessarily preclude the possibility that the company might have been using a scenario for *Don Juan* developed by Peter, although it might also have been developed by Elias. Both are documented as having worked as choreographers.

Early references to the Vogts that are not mentioned above in the main text above include: the following:

- "Hr. Vogt" is listed among the corps de ballet in the Viennese court theater in 1763 (Friedrich Wilhelm Weiskern, [Die Herstellung der Deutschen Schaubühne zu Wien...](#), unpaginated, [last page](#)). This is probably Franz.
- In its listing of the ballet company in Graz for 1775, the *Indice de' spettacoli* (1775, 18) gives the mangled name "Uògt," which should certainly be "Vogt." It is unknown which Vogt this refers to; however, Franz seems still to have been in the corps de ballet in the Kärntnertortheater in Vienna at that time, and Peter seems to have spent all of 1775 in Italy. Given that Elias is explicitly named as a dancer with Jacobelli in Graz in Sep 1776, he seems the most likely to have been the "Uògt" in Graz in 1775, although listings in the *Indice* show that he also danced in Italy in the interim.

Where facsimiles are available, transcriptions from Nannerl's diary have been made using different conventions than those used in Geffray 1998, *Briefe*, or Hummel 1958:

- *Kurrentschrift* is transcribed with roman type, Italic script with italics.
- Expansions of abbreviations for doubled letters and for word endings are given in square brackets.
- Line breaks are preserved (they are not preserved in *Briefe*).

Geffray (1998, 68–69) does not include a facsimile of the lower half of the leaf containing Nannerl's diary entries for 28 Feb 1780 (the last four lines of the entry) and 3, 6, and 7 Mar 1780; no reason is given for the omission.

A conservative estimate of the number of performances given by Böhm's company during its second engagement in Salzburg, from early Sep 1779 to 8 Feb 1780 can be calculated as follows:

Nannerl's diary records the company's performance on 14 Dec 1779 as the 59th. If we assume that Böhm was restricted during his second Salzburg engagement to four performances per week (as described in the report on Schikaneder's engagement in Salzburg in late 1780), and if we further conservatively assume that Böhm's company did not perform over the holiday season between Nannerl's diary entry on 16 Dec 1779 and the end of the month; then his company could have performed on 22 days between 1 Jan and Ash Wednesday, 9 Feb. This gives an estimate of 81 performances (59 + 22) over the complete span of Böhm's second engagement in Salzburg.

The actual total is very likely higher. We know from the fragment of Nannerl's diary in Dec 1779 that Böhm's performances were in fact not limited to Sun, Mon, Wed, and Fri as they were during Schikaneder's engagement the following year; Böhm's company gave no performances on Wed during the period covered by Nannerl's diary, but gave at least one performance on every other day of the week. On the other hand, the ratio of performances to available days implied by Nannerl's diary (nine days out of fifteen =  $9/15 = 0.6$ ) is very close to the ratio implied by four performances per week ( $4/7 = 0.57$ ); so the overall ratio of performances to available days for the Böhm company's second engagement in Salzburg is likely to be around this same number. A more generous estimate, assuming an average of four performances per week over the 159 days from 3 Sep 1779 to Ash Wednesday 1780 would be 90 performances ( $159 * 0.57$ ).

The reference in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1781 to Stierle as translator of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* is cited (but not transcribed) in Mohr (1968, 50 and note 64); note, however, that the *Theater-Kalender* refers merely to "Stierle . . ." not to "Stierle d. Ae." as Mohr gives it. Mohr also cites issue 17 of the *Theater-Journal für Deutschland* on the two performances of the opera in Augsburg in May 1780. Older literature (for example, *Dokumente*, 167) sometimes gives "Franz Xaver Stierle" as the translator, but this is incorrect. Zaslav (2007, 62) attributes the translation of *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* to Johannes Andreas Schachtner, but gives no source for the claim. To our knowledge, there is no evidence for Schachtner's involvement.



While the *Theater-Kalender* is the only known source for the attribution to Stierle, there is, at present, no reason to doubt it.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Steven Whiting for sharing his expertise on traveling German theater companies in the second half of the eighteenth century, and for many useful discussions of this entry and related ones on this site. We are grateful to Michael Lorenz for answering various specific questions, in addition to his help with the archival references on the Vogts. We would also like to thank Ian Allan for his advice on translations, and Evan Baker and John Rice for their answers to specific queries.

---

## Bibliography ( [↑](#) )

Abert, Hermann. 1919. *W. A. Mozart. Herausgegeben als fünfte, vollständig neu bearbeitete und erweiterte Ausgabe von Otto Jahns Mozart*. 2 vols. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel.

———. 2007. *W. A. Mozart*. Translated by Stewart Spencer, edited by Cliff Eisen. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Bacher, Otto. 1929. "Mozarts Opern im Frankfurt des 18. Jahrhunderts." In: *Mozart-Jahrbuch*, edited by Hermann Abert. vol. 3. Augsburg: Benno Filser.

*Churbayerischer Hof- und Staats=Kalender*. 1771; 1772; 1773; 1774.

Dahms, Sibylle. 2007. "Some Questions on the Original Version of Gluck and Angiolini's *Don Juan*." *Dance Chronicle* 30:427–38.

Deininger, Heinz Friedrich. 1942–43. "Die deutsche Schauspielergesellschaft unter der Direktion von Johann Heinrich Böhm, einem Freunde der Familie Mozart, in Augsburg in den Jahren 1779 und 1780." *Augsburger Mozartbuch. Zeitschrift des historischen Vereins für Schwaben*, 55/56:299–397.

d'Elvert, Christian. 1852. *Geschichte des Theaters in Mähren und Oester.Schlesien*. Brünn [Brno]: bei Rud. Rohrer's Erben.

Fellmann, Hans Georg. 1928. *Die Böhmisches Theatergruppe und ihre Zeit. Ein Beitrag zur deutschen Theatergeschichte des 18. Jahrhunderts*. Theatergeschichtliche Forschungen, ed. Julius Petersen. 38. Leipzig: Leopold Voß.

Geffray, Geneviève, ed. 1998. *Marie Anne Mozart. »meine tag ordnung«. Nannerl Mozarts Tagebuchblätter 1775–1783 mit Eintragungen ihres Bruders Wolfgang und ihres Vaters Leopold*. With Rudolph Angermüller. Bad Honnef: Verlag Karl Heinrich Bock.

"G. P." 1846. "Ein Brief von W. A. Mozart und ein Tageblatt seiner Schwester Anna." *Wiener allgemeine Musik-Zeitung*, no. 74, Sat. 20 Jun 1846, 294–95.

Gumpenhuber, Philipp. 1761–1763. "Repertoire de tous les Spectacles qui ont été donné au Theatre près de la Cour depuis le 1.<sup>r</sup> Janvier jusqu'au dernier Decembre de l'An 1761. recueilli par Phiippe Gumpenhuber." [exact titles vary] Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Musiksammlung, Mus. Hs. 34580a–c.

Halliwell, Ruth. 1998. *The Mozart Family: Four Lives in a Social Context*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Hampe, Theodor. 1899. "Die Entwicklung des Theaterwesens in Nürnberg von der zweiten Hälfte des 15. Jahrhunderts bis 1806. II. Teil." *Mitteilungen des Vereins für Geschichte der Stadt Nürnberg*, vol. 13, 98–237.

Hummel, Walter, ed. 1958. *Nannerl Mozarts Tagebuchblätter mit Eintragungen ihres Bruders Wolfgang Amadeus*. Salzburg: Das Bergland-Buch.

Hysel, Franz Eduard. 1863. *Das Theater in Nürnberg von 1612 bis 1863, nebst einem Anhang über das theater in Fürth*. Nuremberg: Im Selbstverlage des Verfassers.

*Indice de' spettacoli teatrali* [exact titles vary]. 1764–1790. Reprint edition as *Un almanacco drammatico. L'indice de' teatrali spettacoli 1764–1823*. Ed. Roberto Verti. Vol. 1. Pesaro: Fondazione Rossini, 1996.

Jahn, Otto, 1867. *W. A. Mozart*. 2nd rev. ed. 2 vols. Leipzig: Breitkopf und Härtel [vol. 1]

———. 1889. *W. A. Mozart*. 3rd ed., edited by Hermann Deiters. 2 vols. Leipzig: Breitkopf und Härtel. [vol. 1]

Mayer, Friedrich. 1843. *Chancen des Nürnberger Theaters von seiner frühesten Entstehung bis zu seiner Gegenwart*. Nuremberg [n. p.]

Mentzel, Elisabeth. 1882. *Geschichte der Schauspielkunst in Frankfurt a. M. von ihren Anfängen bis zur Eröffnung des Städtischen Komödienhauses*. Archiv für Frankfurts Geschichte und Kunst. Neue Folge, Bd. 9. Frankfurt am Main: K. Th. Völcker.

Michtner, Otto. 1970. *Das alte Burgtheater als Opernbühne von der Einführung des deutschen Singspiels (1778) bis zum Tod Kaiser Leopolds II. (1792)*. Theatergeschichte Österreichs, 3/1. Vienna: Hermann Böhlaus Nachf.

Mohr, Albert Richard. 1968. *Das Frankfurter Mozart-Buch: Ein Beitrag zur Mozartforschung*. Frankfurt am Main: Waldemar Kramer.

Müller, Johann Heinrich Friedrich. 1773. *Genaue Nachrichten von beyden kaiserl. königl. Schaubühnen in Wien*. 2 vols. Vienna: Joseph Kurzböck. [vol. 1; vol. 2]

Münster, Robert. 1965. "Die verstellte Gärtnerin. Neue Quellen zur authentischen Singspielfassung von W. A. Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*." *Die Musikforschung*, 18:2, 138–60.

———. 1966. "Die Singspielfassung von W. A. Mozarts 'La finta giardiniera' in den Augsburger Aufführungen von 1780." *Acta Mozartiana* 13:2, 43-48.

———. 1975. "Mozarts Münchner Aufenthalt 1774/75 und die Opera buffa 'La finta giardiniera'." *Acta Mozartiana* 22:2, 21-37.

Pisarowitz, Karl Maria. 1970. "Stierle-Paralipomena." *Mitteilungen der Internationalen Stiftung Mozarteum*. 18:1-2, 11-14.

Rech, Géza. 1975. "Böhm und Schikaneder. Zwei Salzburger Theaterimpresarios der Mozart-Zeit." In: *Festschrift Walter Senn zum 70. Geburtstag*, 188-95. Munich: Musikverlage Emil Katzbichler.

[Rudhart, Franz Michael](#). 1865. *Geschichte der Oper am Hofe zu München. Nach archivalischen Quellen bearbeitet. Erster Theil: Die italiänische Oper von 1654-1787*. Freising: Franz Datterer.

[\[Schmid, Christian Heinrich\]](#). 1775. *Chronologie des deutschen Theaters*. n.p., n.d.

Schwemmer, Marius. 2010. "Studien zu Genealogie, Biographie und Werk von Joseph Willibald Michl (1745-1816)." Ph. D. diss., Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. [[pdf](#)] [[Corrigenda](#), [pdf](#)]

[Stadtarchiv Ulm](#). [n. d.] "G 3 1670 - 1899 Theaterzettel 1670 - 1899." Includes a complete series of posters for Böhm's theatrical company in Ulm, 23 May to 6 Jun 1780.

[Weber, Carl von](#). 1857. *Maria Antonia Walpurgis, Churfürstin zu Sachsen, geb. kaiserliche Prinzessin in Bayern. Beiträge zu einer Lebensbeschreibung derselben*. Vol. 2. Dresden: B.G. Teubner.

Zaslaw, Neal. 1989. *Mozart's Symphonies: Context, Performance Practice, Reception*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

———. 2007. "Mozart's Incidental Music to 'Lanassa' and His 'Thamos' Motets." In: James Cassaro, ed., *Music, Libraries, and the Academy: Essays in Honor of Lenore Coral*, 55-63. Middleton, WI: A-R Editions.

Zechmeister, Gustav. 1971. *Die Wiener Theater nächst der Burg und nächst dem Kärntnerthor von 1747 bis 1776*. Theatergeschichte Österreichs 3/2. Vienna: Hermann Böhlaus Nachf.

---

Credit: DE

Author: [Dexter Edge](#)

Link(s): [Google Books](#) (original); [BSB](#); [Hathi](#) (Kraus reprint)

*Search Term:* verstellte

*Source Library:* BSB, 7437027 P.o.germ. 1446-17/20

*Categories:* Biography, Reception, Corrigenda

*First Published:* Wed, 13 May 2015

*Updated:* Tue, 1 Jul 2025

---

*Citation:*

Edge, Dexter. 2015. “Johann Böhm and *Die verstellte Gärtnerin* in Augsburg (1 May 1780).” In: *Mozart: New Documents*, edited by Dexter Edge and David Black. First published 13 May 2015; updated 1 Jul 2025. [[direct link](#)]