

Received July 11th 1831

Ans? Nov. 12th 1831

(5^a)

My dear Sir

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take to write to you after so long a silence & to do it in English, which language as you will recollect is a great "faible" of mine. But as you always would have me speak it while I was in London I think it my duty to write it also to you (the same way as I spoke it then). I should indeed be ashamed to try once more your indulgence but this is but your fault as you gave me so many proofs of it at every instance. Even since I left your country you did not cease to show your kindness and friendship for me, as I learned by the letters of Mr. Klingemann and others what a care you ~~had~~ took at the performances of my compositions at the philharmonic Concerts, that you always conducted them yourself, in short that you behaved as friendly to my music during my absence, as you did to me when I was in London. This is a principal reason for my giving you the trouble of reading such broken English: I want to say you my heartfelt thanks for this kindness & for the interest, you have been pleased to take in my music: proud of it, as I am, I cannot help expressing to you how very happy it makes me to think that I shall find in you at my return to England the same ~~same~~ ^{true} friendship, which you had for me during my first stay. You promised me that it should be so when I took my leave from you at Mr. Kemble's, & I know you never forget what you have promised.

But this reminds me of my great negligence in performing ^a the promise I gave to you at my departure. The idea of the tenor duet presented itself to my conscience, & I felt myself guilty. I would have written it down & sent to you immediately, but as I do not exactly know in which style you

would like it, I think it better to send you first a specimen here, in order

to ask you, whether I shall continue it the same way:

Viola I. *(Sir George Smart)*
Viola II. *(F.M.B.)*

Canon a 2.
mf. *mf.* *p*

And. *And.* *dim in.* *mf.* *Sallegno*
Cres. *Cres.* *dim in.* *in inf.*

You see in this manner it goes to eternity and perhaps you should like to have the duet somewhat shorter. As soon as I shall know your orders about it I will set myself at work & will not ~~proceed~~ come to Portland Street ^{but} ~~without~~ the finished tenor duet in my hand. I hope you recollect that you promised not to play (neither the specimen nor the whole) with any other tenor player but me, & accordingly you will have very soon occasion to perform it, for I ~~now~~ think now seriously of going back to London & shall be there, please God, in next March or beginning of April. I want to be once more before the end of my travel my brother & all my friends there and that country where after all I passed the happiest time since I left home. The residence in Italy is ~~very~~ delightfull indeed and particularly I admire Rome, as it made an impression upon me, which I am sure I shall never lose. But the character of the greatest part of the Italians is unfortunately too contrary to every thing I like and esteem and just during the time I passed in Rome (this winter and spring) one has been able to observe it sufficiently. This spoiled a great deal of the pleasure which I would have had otherwise in the beautiful country; in the same time I missed music altogether, for since I entered Italy I found neither a good theatre, nor an orchestra, nor even ^a single ^{clever} professor; never in my life I fancied a country where there could be so little musical sense or interest in it as it is here, without music shops, without tolerable instruments, without every thing: the good singers go directly to London or Paris, whereto one must go at present, to form an idea of an ~~good~~ Italian opera

In fact I cannot express to you with how great a pleasure I look upon the time, when I shall return to England & I hope it shall not be later than I wish. You ^{must} have seen already my brother, who is now settled for some years in London; I am sure I do not want to say any thing for his recommendation, for I know your kindness towards every body, who deserves it or appreciates it, & I ~~am~~ say you will be pleased with his acquaintance, as he is a very good and amiable young fellow - at least I think him so and hope others may too. Pray, my dear Sir, let my ~~brother~~ ^{brother} have some news of you; I know how much it is asked during the season, where you are so occupied with concerts, oratorios, opera, etc.; but write me only a few words, let me know how you are, how all ~~our~~ my friends live, and whether I shall find the house in Portland Street still so, as I know it, in short write me, whatever you are concerned it & you will be sure to make me a true and very great pleasure. ~~With~~ Pray do, and write! My brother and Mr. Klingemann know always my direction & will forward to me every thing directly.

May I ask you to present my best compliments & good wishes to Mr. Kate? Pray let my know how he is doing and whether he has ~~much~~ composed many things since that time. Also to Mr. Horsley I wish you may remember me kindly & present my respects to Mr. (and Miss?) Kemble and to Mr. Cartwright, if they still recollect me. Once more, dear Sir, excuse the trouble and believe my

very truly yours

Florence, ~~26~~ June 26th
1831

Felix Mendelssohn Barnekow

SEP 11 1831

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For

Wm. L.

George Smart.

no. 91 Great Cornhill Street, Cornhill, Lond.

LONDON

1831

Wm. L.

Subject of the Duty of the

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