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Ludwig Fischer sings Osmin in Frankfurt (13 Sep 1785)

Dexter Edge

***Frankfurter Staats-Ristretto*, no. 14, Mon, 12 Sep 1785, 601**

Am Dienstag wird im neuen Schauspiel=
hause vorgestellet: Die Entführung aus
dem Serail, ein Singspiel in drey Auf=
zügen, von Mozart, worin Herr Fischer,
Fürstlich Taxischer Kapellsänger, die Rolle
des Osmin spielen wird.


Am Dienſtag wird im neuen Schauſpiel-
hauſe vorgeſtellet: Die Entführung aus
dem Serail, ein Singſpiel in drey Auf-
zügen, von Mozart, worin Herr Fiſcher,
Fürſtlich Taxiſcher Kapellſänger, die Rolle
des Osmin ſpielen wird.

[translation:]

On Tuesday will be performed in the
new theater: *Die Entführung aus dem
Serail*, a singspiel in three acts by Mozart,
in which Herr Fischer, Kapellsänger to
Fürst Taxis, will play the roll of Osmin.

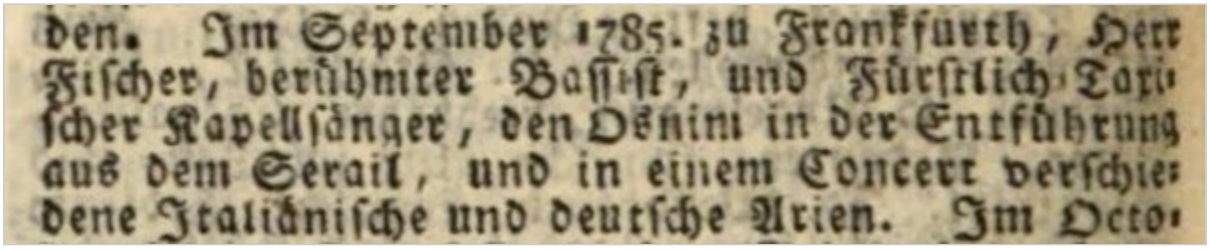
Commentary

On 13 Sep 1785, the bass Ludwig Fischer made a guest appearance as Osmin in a performance in Frankfurt of Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by the theatrical company of Gustav Friedrich Wilhelm Großmann (on Großmann, see our entry for 22 Jun 1783). Fischer had created the role in the original production of *Entführung* in Vienna, and Mozart composed Osmin specifically with Fischer in mind. Just two weeks before Fischer's guest appearance in Frankfurt, he had appeared as Osmin in Mannheim (see our entry for 31 Aug 1785, which includes biographical information on Fischer).

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Großmann’s company had given the Frankfurt premiere of *Entführung* on 2 Aug 1783 (see our entry for that date). The performance on 13 Sep 1785 was the fifth of the opera in Frankfurt, all by Großmann’s company. Although Großmann’s cast for *Entführung* in Frankfurt is not directly documented, it is likely that the role of Osmin had previously been taken by Herr Pleissner [possibly Heinrich Christian}, nominally a tenor, who probably would not have sung the role as originally written. Thus Fischer’s guest appearance may have been the Frankfurt public’s first opportunity to hear the role in its original form.

Fischer’s guest appearance as Osmin in Frankfurt is also noted in the *Theater-Kalender* for 1786.


den. Im September 1785. zu Frankfurth, Herr Fiſcher, berühmter Baſſiſt, und Fürſtlich Taxiſcher Kapellſänger, den Osmin in der Entführung aus dem Serail, und in einem Concert verſchiedene Italiäniſche und deutſche Arien. Im Octo-

(*ThK 1786*, 254)

Notes (⇧)

Fischer’s guest appearance as Osmin in Frankfurt is also discussed in Mohr (1968, 78). The performance of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* in Frankfurt on 13 Sep 1785 is missing from Wolter’s calendar of Großmann’s performances (Wolter 1901, Beilage 2).

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