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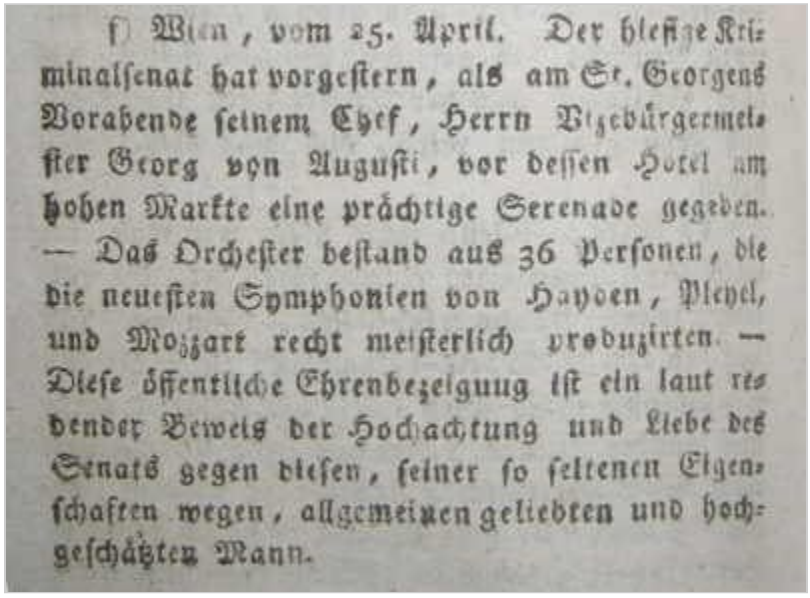
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A name day concert in Vienna with Mozart's "newest symphonies" (23 Apr 1789)

David Black

***Auszug* xi:406, Thu, 27 Apr 1789 (?*Neuester Rapport von Wien*, 11)**

f) Wien, vom 25. April. Der hiesige Kri= minalsenat hat vorgestern, als am St. Georgens Vorabende seinem Chef, Herrn Vizebürgermei= ster Georg von Augusti, vor dessen Hotel am hohen Markte eine prächtige Serenade gegeben. — Das Orchester bestand aus 36 Personen, die die neuesten Symphonien von Hayden, Pleyel, und Mozzart recht meisterlich produzirten. — Diese öffentliche Ehrenbezeigung ist ein laut re= dender Beweis der Hochachtung und Liebe des Senats gegen diesen, seiner so seltenen Eigen= schaften wegen, allgemeinen geliebten und hoch= geschätzten Mann.


f) Wien, vom 25. April. Der hieſige Kri= minalſenat hat vorgeſtern, als am St. Georgens Vorabende ſeinem Chef, Herrn Vizebürgermei= ſter Georg von Auguſti, vor deſſen Hotel am hohen Markte eine prächtige Serenade gegeben. — Das Orcheſter beſtand aus 36 Perſonen, die die neueſten Symphonien von Hayden, Pleyel, und Mozzart recht meiſterlich produzirten. — Dieſe öffentliche Ehrenbezeigung iſt ein laut re= dender Beweis der Hochachtung und Liebe des Senats gegen dieſen, ſeiner ſo ſeltenen Eigen= ſchaften wegen, allgemeinen geliebten und hoch= geſchätzten Mann.

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[translation:]

Vienna, April 25. The day before yesterday, on the eve of St. George, the local *Kriminalsenat* gave their leader, Vice-Mayor Herr Georg von Augusti, a splendid serenade in front of his residence on Hoher Markt.—The orchestra comprised 36 members, which performed quite masterfully the newest symphonies by Haydn, Pleyel, and Mozart.—This public homage is a resounding proof of the senate's regard and affection for him, on account of the rare qualities of this universally loved and highly esteemed man.

Commentary

In Oct 1787, Haydn wrote to Artaria concerning the theft of the Quartets Op. 50 by the copyist Lorenz Lausch: "My plan would be to make Herr Lausch appear before Herr von Augusti, the mayor, and make him confess from whom he received the Quartets. Herr von Augusti is an old friend of mine and will certainly help you in this matter, as he did once before in just such an affair." (Bartha 1965, 179–80; on Lausch, see Edge 2001, 2075–88). Haydn's "old friend," Johann Georg von Augusti (1724–1800) was Vice-Mayor of Vienna, and Chief Justice of the Viennese *Civil- und Kriminalsenat* from 1787 until his death. One of the more charming musical traditions in the German-speaking lands was the serenading of distinguished figures to honor their name day, and Augusti enjoyed such a reception around 23 Apr 1789. The exact date of the serenade is not clear; the report is dated 25 Apr and "vorgestern" would imply 23 Apr. However, St George's Day is normally celebrated on 23 Apr and the "Vorabend" would be 22 Apr.

Augusti lived on the second floor of the *Brunnerhaus* (Hoher Markt 486, demolished in the early nineteenth century), a free-standing building situated opposite Vienna's courthouse (*Schranne*), close to the corner of Hoher Markt and Tuchlauben (see illustrations below). An orchestra of 36 is similar in size to the orchestra of the Burgtheater in Vienna, which had a string complement of 6-6-4-3-3 and the usual woodwinds and brass of the "late classical" orchestra (see Edge 1992). Haydn's recent symphonies included the Paris set (Hob. I:82–87) and those for Johann Tost (88–89) and Comte d'Ogny (90–92), while Pleyel had written about 20 by this date (B. 121–41). While it would be unwise to take the description "newest symphonies" literally, the possibility remains open that one of Mozart's last three, K. 543, 550, and 551, then a few months old, could have been performed for Augusti. The records of the *Kriminalsenat* are not extant until the 1790s, so no further details are known of the musicians or their repertoire.

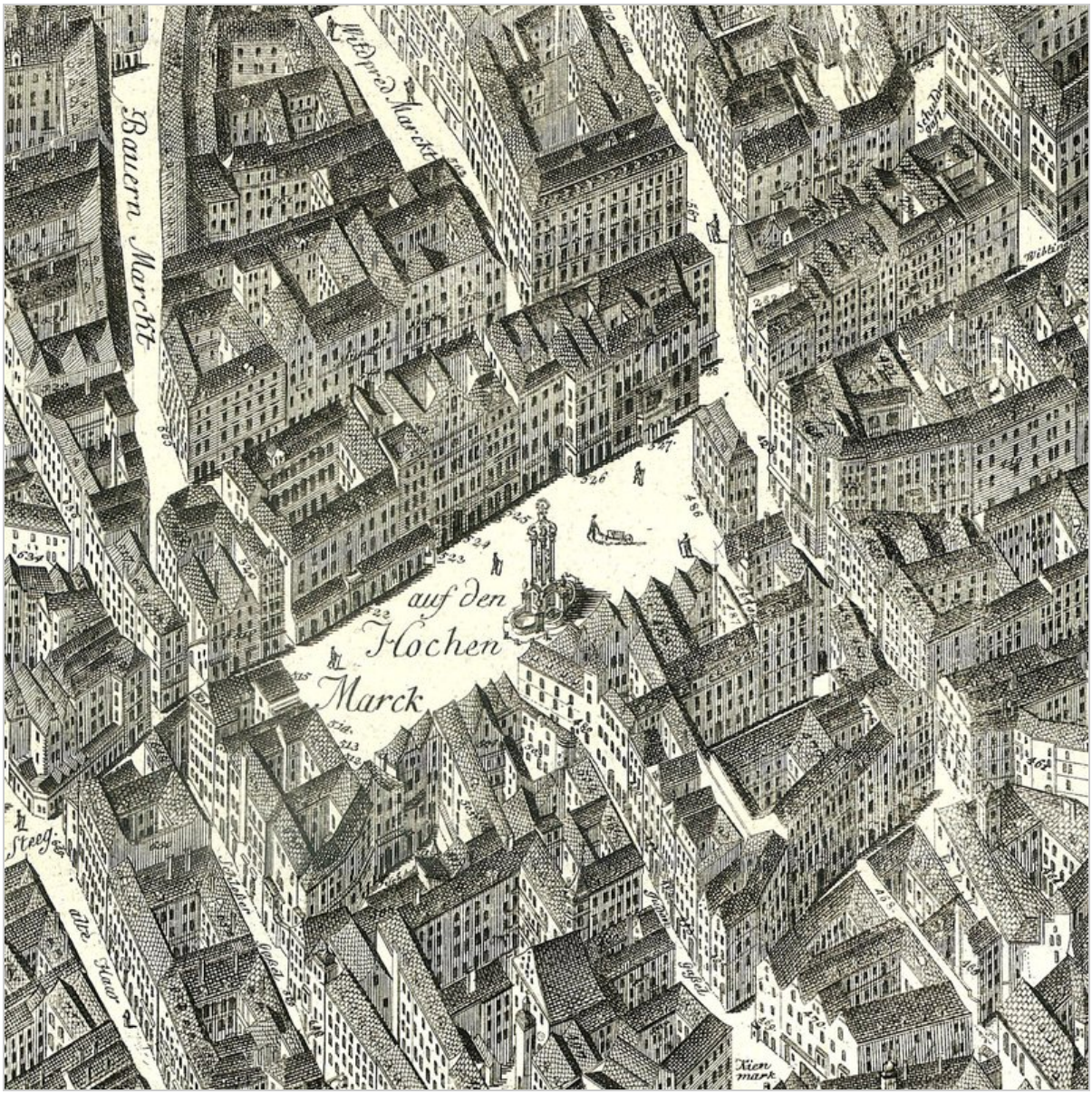
Whatever the identity of the symphonies, this report offers welcome evidence of the reception of Mozart's symphonies in Vienna in the composer's late years (see also Jonášová 2011). Mozart

himself could not have attended the serenade as he was then in northern Germany, but Constanze, staying with the Puchbergs a few doors down from Augusti, may well have heard the performances (*Briefe,* iv.82, 88).

The *Auszug* gives the *Bayreuther Zeitung* 46 as the source for this report. However, it is not to be found in issue 46 of 1789 (which is, in fact, the issue for 16 Apr, a week before the concert took place) or in adjacent issues in the copy of the *Bayreuther Zeitung* available from Google Books. It appears that this citation is a mistaken repeat of an earlier citation from the same issue, and the correct source, "Rap. v. Wien 11" is given in the following footnote, which is unattached to any item. Unfortunately, no copies of the first few months of the *Neuester Rapport von Wien* are known to survive, so the *Auszug* is at present the only known source for this report of Augusti’s serenade.



Hoher Markt looking east. Engraving by Carl Schütz, c. 1793. The Brunnerhaus is on the extreme left, the courthouse on the right (note the bars on the windows).



Hoher Markt in Joseph Daniel Huber's birdseye view of Vienna, 1769-73. Augusti's house stands at the northeast corner.

Notes (⇧)

We are grateful to Michael Lorenz for providing us with information on Augusti and the *Brunnerhaus*.

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