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Reference to Mozart in a review of keyboard variations by Joseph Augustin Gürrlich (24 Oct 1791)

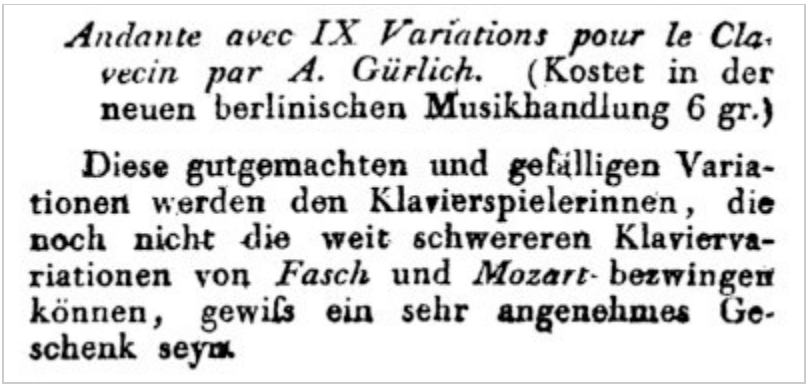
Dexter Edge

***Musikalisches Wochenblatt,* iv, ?24 Oct 1791**

[27]

Andante avec IX Variations pour le Clavecin par A. Gürlich. (Kostet in der neuen berlinischen Musikhandlung 6 gr.)

Diese gutgemachten und gefälligen Variationen werden den Klavierspielerinnen, die noch nicht die weit schwereren Klaviervariationen von *Fasch* und *Mozart* bezwingen können, gewiss ein sehr angenehmen Geschenk seyn.



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[translation:]

Andante avec IX Variations pour le Clavecin by A. Gürlich. (Price in the Neue berlinische Musikhandlung, 6 Gr.)
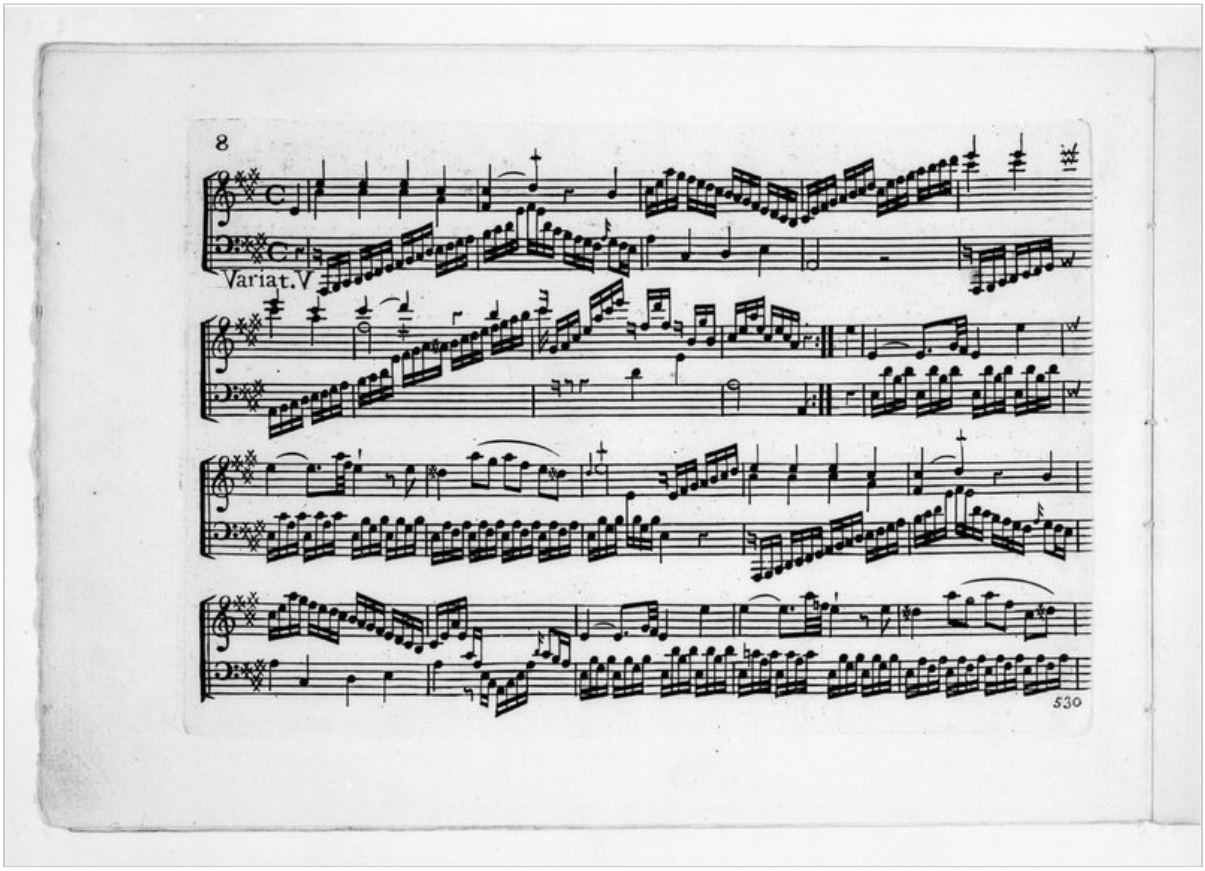
These well written and pleasing variations will surely make a very nice gift for female keyboard players

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who have not yet been able to master the far more
difficult keyboard variations by Fasch and Mozart.

Commentary

The composer of the variations under review here is Joseph Augustin Gürrlich (1761–1817), born in Münsterberg in Silesia. He was a contrabassist in the orchestra of the royal *Kapelle* in Berlin from 1790, and co-director (with F. L. Seidel) of the royal opera in Berlin from 1811 until his death. The "neue berlinische Musikhandlung" (New Berlin Music Shop) mentioned in the review had recently been established by Friedrich Ludwig Æmilius Kunzen (editor of the *Musikalisches Wochenblatt*) and Johann Friedrich Reichardt. "Fasch" refers to Carl Friedrich Christian Fasch (1736–1800); the review may be referring specifically to Fasch's *Ariette pour le clavecin ou piano forte avec quatorze variations*, published by Hummel in Berlin in 1782, apparently the only set of variations that Fasch had published by this date. As the review suggests, Fasch's variations are comparable in difficulty to Mozart's.



From Carl Friedrich Christian Fasch, *Ariette pour le clavecin ou piano forte avec quatorze variations*.
(Berlin, J. J. Hummel)

Notes (⇧)

On the *Musikalische Wochenblatt*, see the *Notes* to our entry for 10 Oct 1791. This short review is also published in Schwob (2015, 177).

Bibliography (⇧)

Schwob, Rainer J. ed. 2015. *W. A. Mozart im Spiegel des Musikjournalismus, deutschsprachiger Raum 1782–1800.* Beiträge zur Mozart-Dokumentation, vol. 1. Stuttgart: Carus Verlag.

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