Citation:

Printed: Fri, 30 Oct 2026

Edge, Dexter. 2014. “A report on the premiere of *Le nozze di Figaro* (7 May 1786).” In: *Mozart: New Documents*, edited by Dexter Edge and David Black. First published 12 Jun 2014; updated 16 Apr 2018. [direct link]

A report on the premiere of *Le nozze di Figaro* (7 May 1786)

Dexter Edge

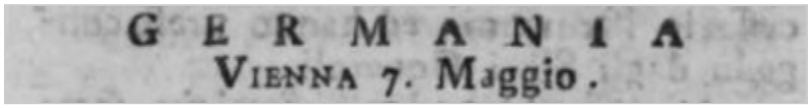
Gazzetta universale, vol. 13, no. 39, Tue, 16 May 1786

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GERMANIA

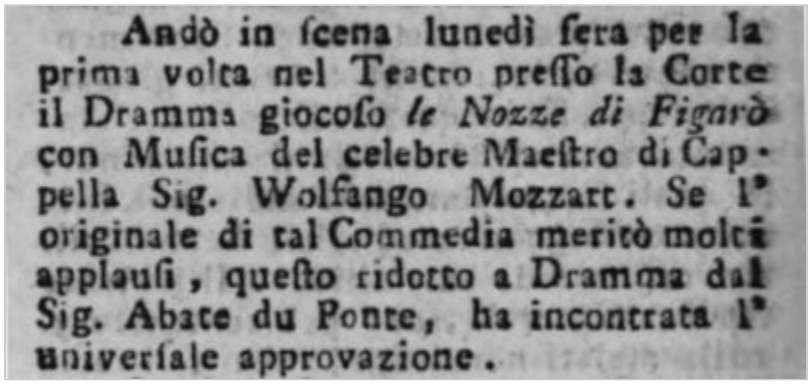
VIENNA 7. Maggio.

[...]


GERMANIA
VIENNA 7. Maggio.

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Andò in scena lunedì sera per la prima volta nel Teatro presso la Corte il Dramma giocoso *le Nozze di Figarò* con Musica del celebre Maestro di Cap= pella Sig. Wolfango Mozzart. Se l’ originale di tal Commedia meritò molti applausi, questo ridotto a Dramma dal Sig. Abate du *[sic]* Ponte, ha incontrata l’ universale approvazione.


Andò in ſcena lunedì ſera per la prima volta nel Teatro preſſo la Corte il Dramma giocoſo *le Nozze di Figarò* con Muſica del celebre Maeſtro di Cappella Sig. Wolfango Mozzart. Se l’ originale di tal Commedia meritò molti applauſi, queſto ridotto a Dramma dal Sig. Abate du Ponte, ha incontrata l’ univerſale approvazione.

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[translation:]

GERMANY
VIENNA 7 May.

Last Monday evening at the court theater, the *dramma giocoso Le nozze di Figaro* was performed for the first time, with music by the famous *maestro di cappella* Sig. Wolfgang Mozart. If the original comedy received much applause, its adaptation as a drama by Sig. Abate da Ponte has met with universal approval.

Commentary

This is one of three previously unknown newspaper reports on the premiere of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. For the general background, see our commentary to 3 May 1786.

This brief report, although dated Sunday, 7 May 1786, refers back to the previous Monday evening ("lunedì sera"), thus to the premiere of *Figaro* on 1 May. In contrast to the reports in the *Münchner Zeitung* (3 May) and the *Bayreuther Zeitung* (16 May), which claim that the reception of Mozart's opera was less than enthusiastic, the report in the *Gazzetta universale* claims that the opera was met with "universal approval."

We are grateful to Matteo Magarotto for his translation of this item.

Credit: DE

Author: Dexter Edge

Link(s): Google Books; Hathi

Search Term: nozze

Source Library: Princeton University Library, 1010.38

Categories: Biography, Reception

First Published: Thu, 12 Jun 2014

Updated: Mon, 16 Apr 2018

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