

1120.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

[Vienna, end of March or beginning of April,³ 1790]

I am sending you herewith, dearest friend, Handel's Life.⁴ – When I returned home from visiting you the other day, I found the enclosed note from Baron Swieten.⁵ From it you will see, just as I do, that I now have better hopes than ever. – [5] Now I am at the gateway to my happiness – I lose it eternally if I cannot take advantage of it this time. But my present circumstances are such – that despite all my pleasant prospects, I must give up my hope of my prospective good fortune as entirely lost without the help of a staunch friend; – since that time you will have noticed something constantly sad about me [10] – and only the all too numerous favours that you have already extended to me bade me remain silent; but only one more time, and for the last time, in the moment of greatest need which decides my entire prospective good fortune, I appeal to you, full of the confidence in the proven friendship and brotherly love you have shown me, to stand by me with everything that is at your disposal. [15] You know the damage it would do to my petition at court⁶ if my present circumstances were to become known – how essential it is that this should remain a secret, for at court they do not judge according to the circumstances, but unfortunately only according to the appearances. You know, you are certainly entirely convinced, that if I am successful with my petition, as I can certainly hope at the moment, [20] you have quite certainly not lost anything – what a delight it will then be for me to repay my debts to you! – What a delight it will be to thank you! – and moreover to confess myself to be your debtor eternally! – What a sense of pleasure when one has finally reached one's goal! – What a sense of blessedness when one has been of help in this – [25] my tears prevent me from completing all the details of the picture – in short! – my entire prospective good fortune is in your hands, sir – act according to your noble heart – do what you can and bear in mind that you are dealing with an honest, eternally grateful man whose situation is painful more because of you than because of himself! – [30]

Mozart.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

150 florins sent

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Johann Michael Puchberg (1741-1822), 1768-1777 in charge of a factory and wholesale business for finished and semi-finished silk layers, velvet, ribbons, cloth and gloves. He resumed this activity in 1785 in association with his brother. The landlord of the premises on the Hoher Markt in Vienna was Franz, Count [Graf] Walsegg-Stuppach, who commissioned the *Requiem* from Mozart in 1791. Member of various Masonic lodges from 1773 onwards. It was probably in Masonic circles that he met Mozart. He was also in contact with Joseph Haydn, who wrote to him in January, 1792, in connection with Mozart's death. He represented Constanze for a time regarding Mozart's estate. Mozart dedicated to him the string trio divertimento in E^b KV 563 (cf. No. 1094/23; No. 1121/11) and perhaps also the piano trio in E KV 542 (cf. notes on No. 1077/50 and No. 1083/18). Puchberg died in poverty in 1822.

³ BD: Dating based on line 16 and note on No. 1124.

⁴ BD: Johann Mattheson's translation with annotations of Mainwaring's "*Memoirs of the Life of the late George Frederic Handel*", Hamburg, 1761.

⁵ BD: Gottfried Bernhard van Swieten (1733-1803), became a diplomat in 1755, served in numerous European cities. From 1777 he had educational responsibilities in Vienna. Owner of an enormously valuable library. Wrote the text for Haydn's "*Seven Last Words*" and "*The Seasons*". Acquainted with C. Ph. E. Bach. Met Mozart in Vienna in 1767, saw him regularly in Vienna, introduced him in his home to the music of Handel and Bach. Commissioned works from Mozart. Composed and conducted music himself.

⁶ BD: Presumably Mozart's petition "for a position as deputy director of music", made to the successor to Emperor [Kaiser] Joseph II, Leopold, who arrived in Vienna on 13th March, 1790; Mozart turned to the latter's son, Franz, for support for his petition.