

1123.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

Dearest, most valued Friend
and Brother!⁴ –

[Vienna, beginning of May,³ 1790]

I regret very much that I am not allowed to go out, then I could speak to you myself, but the pains in my teeth and head are still too severe, [5] and quite generally I still feel a strong alteration. Your thoughts about some good pupils are the same as mine, only I wanted to wait until I am in the new accommodation because have in mind to give lessons where I live; in the meantime I would ask you, sir, to make people a little familiar with this idea, – I also have in mind to give subscription concerts at home during the 3 months July, June and August; [10] it is therefore only the present situation that is weighing on me – when I move out, I must pay 275 florins for the new apartment – I also have living costs until my concerts are arranged and until the quartets⁵ I am working on have been sent for engraving – I would therefore be able to compose fairly peacefully if at least 600 fl. came into my hands at the moment [15] – for, ah!, peace is central to it; – but what torments me most extremely at the moment is a debt I have with the galanterie merchant⁶ at the Stock im Eisen⁷ who, although he originally understood it was impossible and indicated he was satisfied, is now demanding payment earnestly and forcefully, it amounts to 100 fl. – [20] This is an unpleasant business that I would heartily wish to be free of. – Now I have sincerely made my confession to you, and would ask you most longingly to do whatever is in your power and in keeping with your true, cordial sentiments.

[25]

Eternally, sir, your
Mozart.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

100 fl. 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 lines 9-10.

⁴ = Greeting with Masonic overtones: "Brother [in the Order]".

⁵ BD: The "Prussian" Quartets nos. 2 and 3: in B^b KV 589 and in F KV 590 (cf. No. 1105/35).

⁶ = Seller of jewellery, trinkets and fashion accessories.

⁷ BD: "Log in iron", an oak tree-trunk hammered full of nails, adjacent to the *Stephansplatz*.