

1168.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,<sup>2</sup> VIENNA

Dearest Friend!

[Vienna, summer (?),<sup>3</sup> 1791]

My deepest thanks indeed for what you sent. – Because you are asking me to be forthright, I am willing to be so, only under the condition that you should pass no information on to Herr Deyerkauf<sup>4</sup> if you believe that my forthrightness could offend him; [5] you must know your friend better in this regard than I do. –

The sum total of the music comes to 120 ducats – which is 540 florins, – if I allow him 2 thirds off it would be entirely respectable – then I would receive 180 florins. [10] I am being forthright because you wish it, and I ask you once again to make no use of my statement if you suspect that this proposition of mine could insult Herr Deyerkauf. –

I am, sir, your

Mozart.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Addressee corrected following BD VI, p. 415. 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<sup>b</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> DME: Probably a letter of thanks for the support requested on 25<sup>th</sup> June. (No. 1166).

<sup>4</sup> BD: Franz Deyerkauf, art and music dealer in Graz, Freemason. On 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1792, he set up in his garden the first monument to Mozart. Cf. No. 1269/40-45. Puchberg had apparently arranged the sale of music to Deyerkauf at a reduced price.