

1076.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

Dearest brother!³

[Vienna, June, 1788]

Your true friendship and brotherly love make me so bold as to ask you for a great favour; – I still owe you 8 ducats,⁴ sir; – although I am currently not in a position to pay this back to you, [5] my confidence in you goes so far that I venture to ask you to help me out with 100 florins until next week (when my concerts in the Casino⁵ begin); – by that time I must certainly have the subscription money⁶ in my hands and can then very easily pay you back 136 fl.⁷ with the most cordial thanks.

[10] I am taking the liberty here of presenting you with 2 tickets, which I request you (as a brother) to accept without any payment, since I will never be in a position anyway to return adequately the friendship you have shown me.

I would ask you once again, sir, to forgive me for my importunity [15] and I remain, with compliments to your worthy spouse and in unalloyed friendship and brotherly love,
your wholeheartedly devoted brother.

W. A. Mozart.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

100 florins sent.

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: The first in a series of begging letters to Michael Puchberg, who was mentioned for the first time in No. 1067/5 (Sept., 1787). BD VI, pp. 367-368, lists the extant letters of the series (with dates and sums): Nos. 1076, 1077, 1079, 1080, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1125, 1130, 1132, 1147, 1149, 1166 (25th June, 1791), asking for a total of 1415 florins. Other letters are probably lost; No. 1076 mentions a debt already incurred, so Mozart had already received help from Puchberg before June, 1788. Puchberg usually sent the amounts (between 10 and 300 florins) “on the same day”, but did not always meet Mozart's wishes. He did not comply with Mozart's request for a larger, long-term loan of “1 or 2 thousand guldens” over one or two years (cf. Nos. 1077/7-8, 1079/16-17). Medical costs are the predominant reason for the loans (cf. Nos. 1113/11-12; 1106/13). About this time, for unexplained reasons, Mozart's usual sources of income were drying up. Increasingly, he appeared only in concerts organised by other musicians. In 1789, one of his concert subscription lists attracted only one subscriber, Swieten. (Cf. No. 1105/21-22.)

Mozart's budgeting skills: In No. 0599/54, he asked his father how he was expected to have learnt to treat money properly. A hand-written Viennese newspaper, *Der heimliche Botschafter* [“*The secret messenger*”] of 13th December, 1791, spoke of “a carefreeness often adhering to great minds regarding household circumstances” with reference to Mozart. Constanze seems to have managed the finances very well after Mozart's death, even before meeting Nissen. She was able to lend the Duscheks 3500 florins in 1797.

³ Masonic greeting. 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, 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.

⁴ BD: = 36 florins.

⁵ BD VIII, p. 136: (Otto Biba:) Probably Trattner's room and not Philipp Otto's new Casino [assembly room]; the absence of official or semi-official mentions is no reason for assuming that the concerts did not take place.

⁶ BD VIII, p. 136: (Otto Biba:) The subscription presumably refers to the concert series.

⁷ BD: 136 florins covered the new loan of 100 fl. plus the 8 ducats (1 ducat = 4.5 florins).