

1079.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

Most honourable B. O!³

[Vienna, 27th June, 1788]

Dearest, most valued friend! –

During the last few days I constantly thought I would be coming into town myself in order to thank you in person for the friendship you have shown me [5] – But now I would not even have the courage to appear before you, since I am forced to admit openly to you that I cannot possibly repay the money you lent me⁴ so soon, and must beg you to have patience with me! – It is a cause of great worry to me that neither my current circumstances nor you, sir, can support me as I wish! – [10] My situation is such that I have no way round being forced to take out a loan. – But, God, in whom shall I put my trust? In none other than yourself, whom I esteem so highly! – If you would at least be so friendly as to obtain money for me through another channel! – I am of course happy to pay the *interest*, and the person giving me the loan is of course, I believe, reassured enough by my character and my salary [15] – it is painful enough to me to find myself in this situation, but that is however precisely the reason why I would wish to have a somewhat appreciable sum for a somewhat longer duration, in order to prevent such a situation. – If you, most worthy brother, do not help me in the condition I am in, I will lose my honour and *reputation*, which is the one thing that I hope to retain. – [20] I am relying entirely on your true friendship and brotherly love, and confidently expect that you will give me moral and practical support. If my wish is fulfilled, I will be able to breathe easily because I will then be in a position to put my affairs in order and also to keep them that way; – Please do come to me and visit me, sir; [25] I am always at home; – in the 10 days that I have been living here I have worked more⁵ than in 2 months in the other *lodgings*, and if I did not lapse so often into black thoughts (which I must fend off with force), I would make even better progress, for I live pleasantly, – comfortably – and – cheaply! – I will keep you no longer with my prattle, but will fall silent and hope. [30]

Eternally your obliged servant
true friend and B. O.

W. A. Mozart mp⁶

the 27th June 1788

¹ BD: Original unknown. Copy Bds. Edition Jahn 1/III.

² BD VI, p. 368: Several letters to Puchberg are probably missing. Mozart's debt with Puchberg was already 8 ducats (36 florins) by the time the first known begging letter to him, No. 1076, was written. Documented loans by Puchberg amounted to a total of 1415 florins.

³ Masonic greeting: "Brother in the Order". 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.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1077/51.

⁵ BD: If this is the case, it may be that the works entered in the "*Verzeichnüss*" on 22nd and 26th June, 1788 (Piano Trio KV 542, Symphony KV 543, Little March KV 544, Keyboard Sonata KV 545 and Adagio KV 546) were written during these 10 days.

⁶ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.