

1080. MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,<sup>1</sup> VIENNA

Dearest friend and B. O.<sup>2</sup>

[Vienna, beginning of July, 1788]

With great effort and<sup>3</sup> care, I have brought my affairs to the point that it now only depends on advancing some money to me on the basis of these 2 pawn tickets.<sup>4</sup> – In the name of our friendship, I beg this favour of you, sir, but it must be done at once. [5] – Forgive my importunity, but you know the state I am in. – Ah! If only you had indeed done what I asked you to do!<sup>5</sup> – Do it even now – then everything would go as hoped.

Eternally your Mozart

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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<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> BD: One word invisible under an ink blot, perhaps "sorge" ["care", "worry"] repeated.

<sup>4</sup> BD: So Mozart has already had to take items of value to the pawnshop.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1079/16-17. The request for a larger sum of money than otherwise, borrowed over a longer period.