

1106.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

*a Monsieur Michael Puchberg chez lui*³

Dearest, most valued friend
and most honourable Br.⁴

[Vienna,] 17th *Julius*, 1789.

You are surely angry with me, sir, because you give me no answer! – [5] When I place all the expressions of your friendship alongside my present requests, I find you are completely justified. But if I place my misfortunes |: for which in fact I am not to blame :| alongside your amicable thoughts towards myself, I do indeed find that I deserve – to be exonerated. [10] Since I wrote out for you in my last letter, in complete sincerity, every conceivable thing I had on my heart, most treasured friend, the only thing left for me to do today would be to repeat myself, only I must add this: 1st. that I would not be in need of such an appreciable *sum* but for the prospect of horrifying costs for the *spa treatment* for my wife if she has to go to *Baden*,⁵ 2^{do}. Since I am assured of coming into better circumstances in the near future, [15] the size of the *sum* to be paid back is all the same to me, but for the present moment it is preferable and more secure for me if it is large. 3rd. I must adjure you that if it were completely impossible for you to help me with this *sum* this time, you might have so much friendship and brotherly love towards me as to support me in only this very moment [20] with whatever you can spare, for I truly depend on it; – you certainly cannot doubt my integrity, you know me too well for that. Nor can you distrust my words, conduct and manner of living, because you know my way of life and my behaviour; consequently – forgive me my confidence in you, sir – [25] I am completely convinced that only if it were impossible could you be prevented from being of help to your friend; if you can and wish to comfort me completely, I will thank you as my saviour even beyond the grave – for with this you are helping me towards the further good fortune which will follow – if not – in God’s name I beg and adjure you to give whatever support you please for the moment, [30] or also counsel and comfort.

Eternally your most obliged servant
Mozart

P.S. Yesterday my wife was most lamentable again. Today, with the leeches, she has improved again, praise God; – I am indeed most ill-fated! – [35] constantly between fear and hope! – and then! – *Dr. Closset*⁶ was there again yesterday as well.

MICHAEL PUCHBERG’S HAND:

the 17th Jul. 1789 answered *eod. die*⁷ and 150 fl. sent.

¹ BD: Original *olim* W. Heyer, Cologne. Copy Bspk. Edition Jahn ¹/III.

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 = “To Monsieur Michael Puchberg at his home”.

⁴ Masonic greeting: “Brother [in the Order]”.

⁵ BD: To the sulphurous springs as a treatment for Constanze’s problems with her feet (cf. No. 1110/12).

⁶ BD: The Mozart family physician was Dr. Thomas Franz Closset (1754-1813).

⁷ “*eodem die*”: “the same day”.