

1113.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

Most honourable friend
and Brother in the Order!³

[Vienna, in December, 1789]

Do not be alarmed at the content of this letter; – it is only to you, sir – my most treasured friend, since you know me and my circumstances completely – that I have the courage to disclose myself in full confidence; [5] – next month I will receive from the management (as things stand at the moment) 200 ducats⁴ for my opera;⁵ – if you are able and willing to lend me 400 florins until then, you will be extracting your friend from the greatest embarrassment and I give you my word of honour that you will have the money back at the set time, in cash and in full and with all my gratitude; [10] despite my large daily expenses, I would if possible have remained patient until then if it were not for New Year, when I have to pay the apothecaries and doctors (whom I no longer need) in full if I do not want to damage my reputation; – in particular, we dispensed with the services of *Hundschowsky*⁶ in a somewhat unfriendly manner (for certain reasons), [15] for which reason it is now a double burden on my heart to *satisfy* him; – most valued Friend and Brother! – I know only too well how much I owe you, sir! – Regarding the old debts, I beg you to continue to be patient! – Your payment is certain, I stake my honour on it. I beg you once again, pull me out of my difficult situation only this one time; when I received the money for the *opera*, [20] you can be certain of having the entire 400 fl. Back again; – and this summer I have sure hopes (with the work for the King of Prussia⁷) of being able to convince you completely of my honesty – Contrary to what we agreed, nothing is possible at home tomorrow evening, – I have too much work, – if you see Zisler anyway, I would ask you to tell him – [25] but on Thursday I invite you (but only you, sir,) to my home at 10 o'clock in the morning for a little opera rehearsal; – I am only inviting you and Haydn.⁸ – Person-to-person I will tell you of *Salieri's cabals*, but all of them have already melted away – *adieu*.

[30]

Eternally, sir, your
grateful Friend and Brother
W. A. Mozart.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

300 fl. sent.

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

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 Masonic greeting: "Brother [in the Order]".

⁴ BD: = 900 florins.

⁵ BD: *Così fan tutte*.

⁶ BD: Dr. med. Johann Hunczowsky (1752-1798), studied internationally, Imperial and Royal Court Surgeon [k. Leibchirurg]. Member of a Masonic lodge in Vienna. Was present at the birth in November, 1789, of Mozart's fifth child, Anna, who only survived one hour.

⁷ BD: Cf. note on No. 1105/35: six string quartets, six pieces for keyboard.

⁸ BD: Joseph Haydn.