

1121. MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,<sup>1</sup> VIENNA

*À / Monsieur / Monsieur Michael de Puchberg / chez Lui*<sup>2</sup>

[Vienna, before or on 8<sup>th</sup> April,<sup>3</sup> 1790]

You are quite right, dearest friend, if you deem me unworthy of any answer! – My importunity is too unbearable; – [5] I would only ask you to consider my circumstances from every side, to bear in mind my warm friendship and trust in you, and to forgive me! – But if you will, and can, at least rescue me out of a temporary embarrassment, then do it for the love of God – whatever you can easily spare will be very welcome to me – if possible, forget all my importunity and forgive me. [10] For tomorrow, Friday, Count Hadick<sup>4</sup> has asked me to let him hear Stadler's *quintet*,<sup>5</sup> and the *trio*<sup>6</sup> that I wrote for you; I take the liberty of inviting you to attend; Häring<sup>7</sup> will play it. – I would have come to you to speak to you in person, but my head is entirely bandaged because of *rheumatic* pains, [15] which causes me to feel my situation even more. – Once again, help me as best you can for only this moment – and forgive me.

Eternally, entirely yours, sir,  
Mozart mp<sup>8</sup>

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

The 8<sup>th</sup> April 1790 florins: 25  
[20] sent as a banknote<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>2</sup> To Monsieur Michael de Puchberg at his home.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Dating based on line 6.

<sup>4</sup> "Graf". BD: Johann Karl, Count [Graf] Hadik, Hungarian Court Chamber Councillor [Hofkammerrat] and amateur painter, the son of Field Marshal [Feldmarschall] Andreas, Count [Graf] Hadik..

<sup>5</sup> BD: The clarinet quintet in A KV 581, ridded by Mozart for his friend, the clarinetist Anton Stadler; performed in a concert by the Tonkünstler-Societät on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1789.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The string trio divertimento in E<sup>b</sup> KV 563; cf. note on No. 1083/18.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Johann Baptist von Häring († 1818, aged 57), active in his brother-in-law's mercantile business. A fine violinist. Organised a series of "noble amateur" concerts 1807-1808.

<sup>8</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Beginning of paper money: "Pay the bearer...". Cf. No. 1226/24.