

1125.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

[Vienna, before or on 17th May, 1790]³

Dearest friend and B. O.⁴

You will doubtless have learned from your people that I called on you yesterday, and |: with their permission :| wished to eat uninvited [5] – you know my circumstances, in short – I am forced, since I find no true friends, to take out money from lenders; but since it takes time, among this un-Christian class, to seek out and find at least the most Christian of them, I am at the moment so out of pocket that I must ask you, dearest friend, for the sake of everything in the world, to stand by me with what you can best spare [10] – if, as I hope, I receive the money in a week or fortnight,⁵ I will immediately pay back what you lend me now – with all the arrears you have been waiting for so long, I must unfortunately continue to ask you to be patient – if you knew how much worry and care all this causes me – it has been hindering me the whole time in finishing my quartets⁶ [15] – I now have very high hopes at court, for I have reliable information that the E⁷ has kept my petition and has not, as with the others, passed it down with either favour or damnation. – That is a good sign. – On the coming Saturday I am inclined to perform my quartets at my house, to which I most warmly invite you and your worthy spouse. [20] Dearest, most valued Friend and Br. – Do not withdraw your friendship from me because of my importunity, and stand by me, I am relying entirely on you, sir, and am

Eternally

your most grateful

Mozart $\frac{m}{p}$ ⁸

[25]

P.S. Now I have 2 pupils, I would like to get up to 8 pupils – try to spread news that I am taking people on for lessons.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

the 17th May 150 florins sent.

¹ BD: Original unknown. 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 BD: Noted on the original in two different hands: "17th May" and "1790".

⁴ Masonic greeting: "Brother in the Order".

⁵ BD: The money from the lenders.

⁶ BD: 6 quartets ordered by the King of Prussia. By May, KV 575 and 589 had been finished (cf. note on No. 1105/35).

⁷ BD: Dotting presumably by Mozart himself (= E[mperor]).

⁸ *Manu propria* = in my own hand.