

1130.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,<sup>2</sup> VIENNA

[Vienna, before or on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1790]<sup>3</sup>

Dearest friend and B. O.<sup>4</sup>

I am here to conduct my *opera*<sup>5</sup> – my wife is slightly improved. – She is already feeling some relief, but she will have to bathe 60 times – and will have to go out again in autumn – [5] God grant that it may help. – Dearest friend, if you can support me somewhat with the current pressing expenses, oh, then do it; – for reasons of economy I am staying in Baaden<sup>6</sup> and only coming to town when it is absolutely necessary. – Now I am forced to part with my quartets<sup>7</sup> |: that laborious work :| for a trifle only in order to get my hands on some money in my circumstances. [10] – Now I have started composing some keyboard sonatas<sup>8</sup> for the same reason. – *Adieu* – send me whatever you can most readily spare. – Tomorrow one of my Masses will be performed in Baaden.<sup>9</sup> *Adieu* – |: at 10 o'clock :|

Eternally, sir, your

Mozart.

[15] P.S. I furthermore request the viola.

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

12<sup>th</sup> June 25 florins sent

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> BD: Noted on the original in different hands: "17<sup>th</sup> May" and "1790".

<sup>4</sup> Masonic greeting: "Brother in the Order".

<sup>5</sup> BD: *Così fan tutte*. Première on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1790. There were in total 10 performances during that year.

<sup>6</sup> Baden, spa resort about 25 km south of Vienna.

<sup>7</sup> BD: The Prussian quartets KV 575, 589, 590, first published by Artaria at the end of 1791.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Drafts dating from this time: sonata movement in F (fragment) KV Appendix 29 (590a); sonata movement in F (fragment) KV Appendix 30 (590b); rondo in F (fragment) KV Appendix 37 (590c). All probably belong to a sonata. The sonata movement in G minor KV 312 (590d) may be from the same time.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Probably so-called Coronation Mass in C KV 317, which Mozart requested back from the choir conductor in May, 1791 (cf. No. 1153/5 ff.). The performance is known to have taken place on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1790, hence the dating of the letter.