

1132.¹ MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,² VIENNA

Dearest Friend and Br.³

[Vienna, 14th August, 1790]

If things were bearable for me yesterday, today they were bad in the same measure; I could not sleep the whole night for pain; I must have got hot yesterday with all the walking and then caught a cold without realising it; – [5] just imagine my situation – ill and burdened with cares and worries – a situation like this, furthermore, noticeably hinders recovery. – in 8 or 14 days I shall receive help⁴ – certainly – but at present I have needs. – Would it be possible for you to assist me with something small? – anything would help me for the moment – [10] for the moment, at least, you would bring a little peace, sir, to your

true friend, servant and br.

W: A: Mozart mp⁵

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

14th Aug. 790 10 florins sent

¹ BD: Original lost, *olim* Slg. Fritz Donebauer, Prague. 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 Greeting with Masonic overtones: "Brother [in the Order]".

⁴ BD: Cf. No 1125/10-11. Mozart is probably thinking of the financial transaction with Heinrich Lackenbacher, for which the promissory note of 1st October, 1790, was made out (cf. No. 1137).

⁵ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.