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THE ARTEMIS QUARTET WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS SUYOEN KIM AND HARRIET KRIJGH

Artemis Quartet announces the successors of Anthea Kreston and Eckart Runge from June 2019

Berlin, 8th January 2019 – To mark the 30th anniversary of the Artemis Quartet in 2019, two new players will join the ensemble. As announced last September, founding member Eckart Runge is to leave the Artemis Quartet after the final concerts in the ensemble's current constellation in May 2019, alongside violinist Anthea Kreston. From June 2019, she will be succeeded by Suyoen Kim; Harriet Krijgh has been appointed as cellist. As with the original members Natalia Prishpenko, Heime Müller, Volker Jacobsen and Eckart Runge, the two violinists Vineta Sareika and Suyoen Kim will alternate in the first chair position.

Gregor Sigl states: "We are delighted and hugely excited to welcome Suyoen Kim and Harriet Krijgh, two wonderful musical personalities and outstanding instrumentalists, to the Artemis Quartet! As with previous changes, we now face the challenge once again of preserving the musical heritage of all previous members of the Artemis Quartet – a legacy of unconditional commitment going back more than thirty years – with our new partners. At the same time, in our common pursuit of musical excellence, we aim to challenge this legacy and expand on it."

The Artemis Quartet will perform eight concerts throughout Europe in May and June 2019, both to celebrate its 30th anniversary and also to introduce the two new members. For each concert, the first part of the programme features works for string sextet, with departing members Anthea Kreston and Eckart Runge as guests. The second part presents the quartet exclusively in its future constellation of Vineta Sareika, Suyoen Kim, Gregor Sigl and Harriet Krijgh. The first anniversary concert takes place in Bremen on May 2nd. Further performances are planned in Berlin, Munich and Vienna, as well as in Paris, and at the Schwetzingen Festival. All concerts are outlined [on the quartet's website](#).

Violinist Suyoen Kim was born in Münster in 1987, and received her first violin lessons when she was five years old. At the age of nine – the youngest conservatory student in Germany at

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the time – she enrolled at the Musikhochschule Münster, learning with Professor Helge Slaatto. After receiving her degree, she continued her studies with Professor Ana Chumachenco, graduating from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München with a Masters in 2010, and from the Kronberg Academy in 2012. While still studying towards her first degree, Suyoen Kim won first prize at the 2006 Hannover International Violin Competition. In 2009, she won fourth prize at the Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition in Brussels. Suyoen Kim performs regularly as a soloist with renowned orchestras and conductors as well as with numerous chamber music partners. The Artemis Quartet will be the first chamber music ensemble in which she holds a permanent position. Since the beginning of 2018, Suyoen Kim is First Concert Master of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin. She plays a 1702 instrument by Stradivarius, “Lord Newlands”, which is kindly sponsored by the Nippon Music Foundation.

Suyoen Kim expresses her joy about joining the quartet: “Sometimes, when playing music with others for the first time, something miraculous happens: I have the feeling that we all understand each other, that each performer is revealing their character to the others through the music. This feeling is strongest in chamber music – especially in string quartets – and by working together, it can be perfected and refined to an extraordinary degree. My respect and fascination for the Artemis Quartet goes back many years and I cannot describe how happy I am to be able to join the ensemble as a new member. I am confident that we shall explore many new musical avenues together and I cannot wait to share our journey with our audiences, just as the Artemis Quartet has done with ever-changing power and persuasion for over thirty years.”

Cellist Harriet Krijgh, born in the Netherlands in 1991, also received her first instrumental tuition at the age of five. After initial studies at the conservatoire in Utrecht, she moved to Vienna in 2004 to study cello with Lilia Schulz-Bayrova at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna. Harriet Krijgh has won numerous competitions: between 2008 and 2010, she won first prizes at the Prinses Christina Concours in the Netherlands, at the Austrian National Competition Prima la Musica and at the Fidelio Competition in Vienna, as well as the Nicole Janigro Prize at the International Antonio Janigro Cello Competition in Croatia. In 2012, Harriet Krijgh founded the “Harriet & Friends” festival which takes place every summer at Burg Feistritz in Austria; in the 2015/2016 season, she was named a “Rising Star” by the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO); and in 2017, she assumed the role of Artistic Director of the International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht, taking over from Janine Jansen. Alongside her international solo appearances, Harriet Krijgh is a regular chamber music partner of Baiba Skride, Laura Skride and Lise Berthaud. She also collaborates with the Pavel Haas Quartet, the Modigliani Quartet and the Signum Saxophone Quartet. In April 2018, Harriet Krijgh signed an

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exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. The first release, featuring works by Vivaldi, is planned for autumn 2019.

“I am absolutely delighted that I will be part of such a first-class ensemble as the Artemis Quartet. At our very first meeting, I could already sense a strong mutual understanding – musical as well as personal. The unique string quartet repertoire and the interaction of four string players requires a great deal of understanding and engagement, as well as extreme concentration. I sense that my work with the Artemis Quartet will be hugely enriching for me as a musician and as a person – both in the context of chamber music-making and also in terms of my future career as a soloist,” notes Harriet Krijgh, looking forward to her future engagement.

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