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## Artemis Quartet Enters a New Era

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Founding member Eckart Runge to focus on new challenges  
Anthea Kreston is also leaving the ensemble  
The Artemis Quartet remains active in the thirtieth year of its existence

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Berlin, 4th September 2018 – The thirtieth anniversary of the Artemis Quartet in 2019 will see two new members joining the ensemble. Founding member Eckart Runge is leaving the Artemis Quartet after the current constellation's final concerts together in May 2019, in order to devote more time to his own artistic projects and to his family. "I have enjoyed the privilege of being able to work and perform with many wonderful colleagues and partners, of being able to share the unique quartet repertoire with them and with our audiences over a very long time during my life as a musician – and for that I am deeply grateful," explains Eckart Runge regarding his decision at the end of summer 2018.

Shortly after Runge announced his decision within the quartet, violinist Anthea Kreston also decided to depart.

The Artemis Quartet accepts the challenge; successors for the positions of second violin and cello will be announced later this autumn.

The Artemis Quartet has already undergone a number of musical transitions over the last ten years: in 2007, founding members Heime Müller and Volker Jacobsen departed and were replaced by Gregor Sigl and Friedemann Weigle. In 2012, first violinist Natalia Prishpenko left the quartet, succeeded by Vineta Sareika. The most recent change was Anthea Kreston's arrival in 2016, after the death of Friedemann Weigle.

The quartet's eventful history shows that a group is more than a combination of individuals – particularly in chamber music. In the words of violist Gregor Sigl: "the Artemis Quartet is the sum of all its members, including those from the past and future."

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