

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 1 October 2026, Birmingham Hippodrome

Swan Lake

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; **Choreography** Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov and Peter Wright;
Production Peter Wright and Galina Samsova; **Designs** Philip Prowse;
Lighting Peter Teigen (adapted by Johnny Westall-Eyre)

<i>Odette/Odile</i>	Yaoqian Shang
<i>Prince Siegfried</i>	Lachlan Monaghan
<i>The Queen Mother</i>	Ava May Llewellyn
<i>Baron von Rothbart</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Benno</i>	Haoliang Feng
<i>Prince Siegfried’s Friend</i>	

ACT I

<i>The Prince’s Companions</i>	Sophie Walters , Alexandra Manuel, Rachele Pizzillo, Yuki Sugiura, Gabriel Anderson, Noah Campbell, Ryan Felix, Mason King
<i>Two Courtesans</i>	Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami
<i>Court Ladies, Courtiers, Ladies in Waiting</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Three-minute pause: please remain seated

ACT II

<i>Cygnets</i>	Olivia Chang Clarke, Yasemin Kayabay, Airi Kobayashi, Sophie Walters
<i>Two Swan Maidens</i>	Yuki Sugiura, Lucy Waine

INTERVAL

ACT III

<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Rory Mackay
<i>Hungarian Princess</i>	Rachele Pizzillo
<i>Polish Princess</i>	Alexandra Manuel
<i>Italian Princess</i>	Olivia Chang Clarke
<i>Czárdás</i>	Sophie Walters, Louis Andreasen and Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Mazurka</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Neapolitan Dance</i>	Rosanna Ely, Maïlène Katoch Mikel Arzak, John Fontanini
<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura, Ixan Ferrer, Mason King
<i>Ambassadors, Pages, Guards, Attendants and Courtiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT IV

Swan Maidens, Cygnets Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Subin Kim

Approximate timings

Act I 34 minutes; *pause* 3 minutes; *Act II* 33 minutes

Interval 20 minutes; *Act III* 38 minutes;

Interval 15 minutes; *Act IV* 20 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 4.50pm

First Violins

Robert Gibbs *Leader*
Joana
Valentinavičiute
Vanessa David
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Caroline Ferriman
Jake Rea
Jenny Thurston
Tim Wilford
Amanda Britton

Second Violins

Ruth Heney
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Charlotte Dodwell
Shelley Deacon
Paul Barrett
Caroline Bodimead
Suzannah Quirke

Violas

Errika Collins
James Flannery
May Dolan
Alex Wakeling
Matthew Johnstone

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Arthur Boutillier
Maya Kashif
Gen Li

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Fabian Galeana
Joana Subira
Katy Furmanski

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
Jane Dixon-Wayne
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Amy Turner
Vanessa Howells

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Harry Penny

Bassoons

Alex Callanan
Claire Webster

Horns

Nicholas Wolmark
Neil Mitchell
Chris Pointon
Richard Stroud
Nick Ireson

Cornets

Mike Allen
Sam Balchin

Trumpets

Chris Evans
Steve Walton

Trombones

Amos Miller
Andrew White
Paul Lambert

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Paula O'Malley
John McCutcheon
Austin Beattie

Harp

Susan Blair

The Story

Act I *A courtyard in the castle*

Following his father's death, Prince Siegfried will be crowned king and must marry. He dreads the loss of his freedom and has no wish to marry. It is his 21st birthday and his equerry, Benno, has arranged an entertainment to divert him. His friends present him with a crossbow, but in the middle of these celebrations the Dowager Queen arrives. She is shocked at the revelry while the court is in mourning and reminds Siegfried that he must choose a bride from three Princesses who will attend a grand reception. Benno attempts to cheer Siegfried up with the help of two courtesans. When the dancers have gone, a flight of swans passes and Benno suggests that Siegfried try out his new crossbow. They depart in pursuit.

Act II *The lakeside by moonlight*

It is midnight and Baron von Rothbart, an evil magician, awaits the arrival of the Princess Odette and her companions. He has transformed them into swans and it is only between midnight and dawn that they can return to human form. Von Rothbart hides when Siegfried arrives. Left alone, Siegfried sees a swan which, to his amazement, changes into a beautiful maiden, the Princess Odette. She explains that her enchantment can only be broken if someone who has never loved before swears an oath of undying love. Von Rothbart appears and Prince Siegfried attempts to shoot him, but Odette explains that if the magician dies the spell can never be broken. Dawn

approaches. Prince Siegfried declares his love and swears to be true for eternity. Odette promises him that she will visit him the following night at the castle.

Act III *The ballroom of the castle*

At the grand reception three Princesses dance for Siegfried, but his thoughts are elsewhere. A fanfare announces the arrival of two uninvited guests; they are von Rothbart, disguised as an ambassador, and his daughter Odile, whom the sorcerer has transformed to look like Odette. The Prince believes her to be the Swan Princess. While Odile and the Prince dance, Odette keeps her promise and appears at the window, but his attention is distracted by the magician’s spell. Infatuated, Siegfried asks for Odile’s hand in marriage. Von Rothbart makes him swear his love for her and as Siegfried does so, Odette again appears at the window. The court is thrown into confusion and, in despair, the Prince rushes out in search of Odette.

Act IV *The lakeside*

Odette returns to the swan maidens, distraught and wishing to drown herself while she is still in human form. Realising Siegfried is following her, von Rothbart creates a storm in a vain attempt to stop him. Siegfried arrives and begs Odette’s forgiveness. Sadly, she tells him that she forgives him but nothing can change the fact that his vow has been broken. Odette and Siegfried decide they cannot live apart and will die together. Odette throws herself into the lake and von Rothbart is thwarted in his attempt to stop Siegfried following her. Dawn breaks. The spell is broken as the lovers are united in a world of eternal love.

SIR PETER WRIGHT