

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 12 February 2026

Birmingham Hippodrome

Don Quixote

Music Original music composed by Ludwig Minkus; **Arrangement (2022)** Hans Vercauteren
(Act II Campfire Sequence: original music composed by Hans Vercauteren);

Choreography Carlos Acosta after Marius Petipa; **Production** Carlos Acosta

Set and Costume design Tim Hatley; **Video design** Nina Dunn;

Lighting Peter Mumford; **Staged by** Christopher Saunders

Don Quixote is generously supported by donors to BRB via The Big Give Christmas Challenge. Thanks go to The Reed Foundation, Charles Glanville, Ian and Alison Fisher in memory of Wendy Bevington, GNC Trust, NBB Law, an anonymous donor and all the supporters who doubled their donations through the Christmas Challenge donation window.

Don Quixote Jonathan Payn

Sancho Panza Olivia Chang-Clarke

His squire

Lorenzo Rory Mackay

Kitri Geneviève Penn Nabity*

His daughter

Basilio Mathias Dingman

A young barber

Gamache August Generalli

A rich nobleman

Espada Lachlan Monaghan

A famous matador

Mercedes Samara Downs

A street dancer

Kitri's friends Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami

Two Matadors Louis Andreasen, Haoliang Feng

Gypsy couple Eilis Small, Ryan Felix

The Queen of the Dryads Lucy Waine

Amour Beatrice Parma

Dulcinea Daria Stanciulescu

Fandango Couple Eilis Small, Ryan Felix

Townspeople, Matadors Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Gypsies, Dryads

On-stage Guitarists Tom Ellis, Dan Thomas

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy

*Guest Principal from The National Ballet of Canada

Approximate timings

Act I 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 33 minutes;

Interval 20 minutes; *Act III* 34 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 10.20pm

First Violins Robert Gibbs <i>Leader</i> Joana Valentiniaviciute Vanessa David Amanda Brown Deborah Schlenther Philip Aird Caroline Ferriman Jennifer Thurston Timothy Wilford Amanda Britton	Violas Errika Collins Lisa Bucknell May Bardsley Alex Wakeling Tom Kirby	Oboes Peter Facer Odette Cotton	Tuba David Gordon Shute
Second Violins Kirsty McLeod Fiona Robertson Robert Simmons Charlotte Dodwell Paul Barrett Suzannah Quirke Caroline Bodimead Vladimir Naoumov	Cellos António Novais Jane Rainey Miguel Fernandes Alessandro Sanguineti Gen Li	Clarinets Ian Scott Fresca David	Timpani Grahame King
	Doubles Basses Vera Pereira Fabian Galeana Alexander Verster Phoebe Cheng	Bassoons Luke Tucker Ruth Rosales <i>Contra</i>	Percussion Kevin Earley Paul Parker John McCutcheon
	Flutes Anna Kondrashina Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Horns Andrew Littlemore Neil Mitchell Richard Dilley Nicholas Ireson Nicholas Wolmark	Harps Susan Blair
		Trumpets Michael Allen Christopher Deacon	Guitars Tom Ellis Dan Thomas
		Trombones Andrew White Hilary Belsey Guy Berry	

The Story

ACT I

Don Quixote reads a book of adventures and becomes deluded, believing that he is the successor of the medieval knights – errant, on a quest to serve his imaginary Lady, Dulcinea. He sets out with Sancho Panza. They meet Kitri, who is in love with Basilio, a poor barber. Her father Lorenzo wishes her to marry the foppish nobleman Gamache. Kitri and Basilio run away together to get married. Lorenzo and Gamache set out in pursuit, followed by Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Interval

ACT II

Kitri and Basilio find themselves surrounded by gypsies who suspect they have come to steal from them. Lorenzo and Gamache arrive followed by Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Don Quixote mistakes a windmill for a monster and goes on the attack with disastrous results. Half unconscious from his injuries, Don Quixote falls into a dream-filled sleep in which he is transported to a magic garden, where he meets the Queen of the Dryads.

Interval

ACT III

Lorenzo and Gamache find Kitri and Basilio in a local tavern. Lorenzo is determined to see Kitri married to Gamache. Basilio pretends to stab himself in jealous despair, while Kitri implores Don Quixote for help. Don Quixote forces Lorenzo to bless the lovers, convinced that Basilio is dying. Basilio makes a miraculous recovery – their scheme has worked. The entire town celebrates the wedding of Kitri and Basilio. Don Quixote realizes that he must continue his quest and sets out once more to perform deeds of chivalry.

A full synopsis is available in the programme book accompanying this production.