

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 *Leader*
Joana Valentinaviciute
Vanessa David
Amanda Brown
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Caroline Ferriman
Jennifer Thurston
Timothy Wilford
Amanda Britton

Second Violins

Kirsty McLeod
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Suzannah Quirke
Caroline Bodimead
Vladimir Naoumov

Violas

Errika Collins
Lisa Bucknell
May Bardsley
Alex Wakeling
Tom Kirby

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Miguel Fernandes
Alessandro Sanguineti
Gen Li

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Fabian Galeana
Alexander Verster
Phoebe Cheng

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Peter Facer
Odette Cotton

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Fresca David

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales *Contra*

Horns

Andrew Littlemore
Neil Mitchell
Richard Dilley
Nicholas Ireson
Nicholas Wolmark

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Christopher Deacon

Trombones

Andrew White
Hilary Belsey
Guy Berry

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Paul Parker
John McCutcheon

Harps

Susan Blair

Guitars

Tom Ellis
Dan Thomas

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.