

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Sunday matinee 15 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 Rory Mackay

Sancho Panza Alfie-Lee Hall

His squire

Lorenzo Jonathan Payn

Kitri Momoko Hirata

His daughter

Basilio Max Maslen

A young barber

Gamache Rafael Bejarano Vidal

A rich nobleman

Espada Ryan Felix

A famous matador

Mercedes Lucy Waine

A street dancer

Kitri's friends Rosanna Ely, Alisa Garkavenko

Two Matadors Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng

Gypsy couple Frieda Kaden, Javier Rojas

The Queen of the Dryads Amelia Thompson

Amour Riku Ito

Dulcinea Samara Downs

Fandango Couple Frieda Kaden, Javier Rojas

Townspeople, Matadors Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Gypsies, Dryads

On-stage Guitarists Tom Ellis, Alex Crawford

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Charlotte Politi

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 3.40pm

First Violins Robert Gibbs <i>Leader</i> Joana Valentinaviciute Amanda Brown Deborah Schlenther Philip Aird Caroline Ferriman Jennifer Thurston Timothy Wilford Amanda Britton Catherine Hamer	Violas Errika Collins Lisa Bucknell May Bardsley Alex Wakeling Tom Kirby	Oboes Peter Facer Odette Cotton	Trombones Andrew White Hilary Belsey Stephen Williams
Second Violins Kirsty McLeod Mary Martin Fiona Robertson Robert Simmons Charlotte Dodwell Paul Barrett Caroline Bodimead Vladimir Naoumov	Cellos António Novais Jane Rainey Miguel Fernandes Alessandro Sanguineti Maya Kashif	Clarinets Ian Scott Fresca David	Tuba David Gordon Shute
	Doubles Basses Vera Pereira Fabian Galeana Alexander Vertser Phoebe Cheng	Bassoons Luke Tucker Ruth Rosales <i>Contra</i>	Timpani Grahame King
	Flutes Anna Kondrashina Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Horns Andrew Littlemore Neil Mitchell Christopher Pointon Nicholas Ireson Richard Dilley	Percussion Kevin Earley Paul Parker John McCutcheon
		Trumpets Christopher Deacon John Ellwood	Harps Elin Samuel
			Guitars Tom Ellis Alex Crawford

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.