

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 20 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 Dominic Antonucci

Sancho Panza Alfie-Lee Hall
His squire

Lorenzo Jonathan Payn
The innkeeper

Kitri Yu Kurihara
His daughter

Basilio Yasiel Hodelín Bello
A young barber

Gamache Rory Mackay
A rich nobleman

Espada Max Maslen
A famous matador

Mercedes Ellis Small
A street dancer

Kitri's friends Olivia Chang-Clarke, Reina Fuchigami

Two Matadors Haoliang Feng, Gabriel Anderson

Gypsy couple Ryan Felix, Frieda Kaden

The Queen of the Dryads Céline Gittens

Amour Riku Ito

Dulcinea Daria Stanciulescu *Fandango*

Couple Ryan Felix, Frieda Kaden

Townspeople, Matadors Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
Gypsies, Dryads

On-stage Guitarists Tom Ellis, Dan Thomas

Royal Ballet Sinfonia
Conductor Paul Murphy

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
 Amanda Brown
 Deborah Schlenther
 Philip Aird
 Caroline Ferriman
 Jennifer Thurston
 Timothy Wilford
 Amanda Britton
 Catherine Hamer

Second Violins

Kirsty McLeod
 Mary Martin
 Fiona Robertson
 Charlotte Dodwell
 Paul Barrett
 Suzannah Quirke
 Vladimir Naoumov
 Christopher Hughes

Violas

Errika Collins
 Lisa Bucknell
 May Bardsley
 Alex Wakeling
 Thomas Kirby

Cellos

António Novais
 Jane Rainey
 Maya Kashif
 Deborah Chandler
 Gen Li

Doubles Basses

Fabian Galeana
 Alexander Verster
 Phoebe Cheng
 Georgia Lloyd

Flutes

Anna Wolstenholme
 Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes

Isobel Cheesman
 Odette Cotton

Clarinets

Ian Scott
 Harry Penny

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
 Ruth Rosales *Contra*

Horns

Andrew Littlemore
 Jo Withers
 Nicholas Wolmark
 Alexander Hocknull
 Alexander Willetts

Trumpets

Christopher Deacon
 John Ellwood

Trombones

Andrew White
 Hilary Belsey
 Ed Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
 Paul Parker
 John McCutcheon

Harps

Deian Rowlands

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.