

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday 21 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 Tom Hazelby

His squire

Lorenzo Jonathan Payn

The innkeeper

Kitri Beatrice Parma

His daughter

Basilio Enrique Bejarano Vidal

A young barber

Gamache Rory Mackay

A rich nobleman

Espada Lachlan Monaghan

A famous matador

Mercedes Eilis Small

A street dancer

Kitri's friends Rosanna Ely, Reina Fuchigami

Two Matadors Haoliang Feng, Gabriel Anderson

Gypsy couple Andrea Riolo, Ixan Llorca Ferrer

The Queen of the Dryads Yuki Sugiura

Amour Riku Ito

Dulcinea Samara Downs

Fandango Couple Andrea Riolo, Ixan Llorca Ferrer

Townspeople, Matadors Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Gypsies, Dryads

On-stage Guitarists Tom Ellis, Dan Thomas

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 10.20pm

First Violins Robert Gibbs <i>Leader</i> Joana Valentiniaviciute 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 Thomas Kirby	Oboes Isobel Cheesman Odette Cotton	Trombones Andrew White Hilary Belsey Ed Hilton
Second Violins Kirsty McLeod Mary Martin Fiona Robertson Charlotte Dodwell Paul Barrett Suzannah Quirke Vladimir Naoumov Elizabeth Goble	Cellos António Novais Jane Rainey Alessandro Sanguineti Maya Kashif Gen Li	Clarinets Ian Scott Harry Penny	Tuba David Gordon Shute
	Doubles Basses Fabian Galeana Alexander Verster Phoebe Cheng Georgia Lloyd	Bassoons Alexandra Callanan Ruth Rosales	Timpani Grahame King
	Flutes Anna Wolstenholme Sandra Skipper <i>Piccolo</i>	Horns Andrew Littlemore Jo Withers Nicholas Wolmark Alexander Hocknull Alexander Willetts	Percussion Kevin Earley Paul Parker John McCutcheon
		Trumpets Christopher Deacon Timothy Hawes	Harp 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.