

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 23 April 2026
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London

Don Quixote

*This evening's performance is dedicated to the memory of dancer,
choreographer and director, Ben Stevenson (1936-2026).*

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

The innkeeper

Kitri Momoko Hirata

His daughter

Basilio Mathias Dingman

A young barber

Gamache Rafael Bejarano Vidal

A rich nobleman

Espada Max Maslen

A famous matador

Mercedes Yaoqian Shang

A street dancer

Kitri's friends Olivia Chang-Clarke, Katherine Ochoa

Two Matadors Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng

Gypsy couple Frieda Kaden, Ryan Felix

The Queen of the Dryads Céline Gittens

Amour Tzu-Chao Chou

Dulcinea Eilis Small

Fandango Couple Frieda Kaden, Ryan Felix

Townspeople, Matadors Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Gypsies, Dryads

On-stage Guitarists Tom Ellis, Alexander Crawford

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
 Vanessa David
 Amanda Brown
 Deborah Schlenther
 Philip Aird
 Caroline Ferriman
 Jennifer Thurston
 Tim Wilford

Second Violins

Millie Ashton
 Mary Martin
 Fiona Robertson
 Robert Simmons
 Charlotte Dodwell
 Paul Barrett
 Suzannah Quirke

Violas

Errika Collins
 Jamie Howe
 Amy Swain
 Hannah Horton
 Hannah Roberts

Cellos

António Novais
 Abi Hyde-Smith
 Jane Rainey
 Francesca Cull
 Sophie Gledhill

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
 Georgina McGrath
 William Puhr
 Phoebe Cheng

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
 Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes

Amy Turner
 Vanessa Howells

Clarinets

Ian Scott
 Harry Penny

Bassoons

Ruth Rosales
 Alexandra Davidson

Horns

Nicholas Wolmark
 Nicholas Ireson
 Christopher Pointon
 Richard Stroud
 Richard Dilley

Trumpets

Christopher Deacon
 Julie Ryan

Trombones

Amos Miller
 Andrew White
 Ed Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

John McCutcheon

Percussion

Austin Beattie
 Paul Parker
 Tim Gunnell

Harp

Susan Blair

Guitars

Tom Ellis
 Alexander 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.