

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 24 September 2026, Birmingham Hippodrome

Swan Lake

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; **Choreography** Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov and Peter Wright;
Production Peter Wright and Galina Samsova; **Designs** Philip Prowse;
Lighting Peter Teigen (adapted by Johnny Westall-Eyre)

<i>Odette/Odile</i>	Céliné Gittens
<i>Prince Siegfried</i>	Mason King
<i>The Queen Mother</i>	Eilis Small
<i>Baron von Rothbart</i>	Jonathan Payn
<i>Benno</i> <i>Prince Siegfried's Friend</i>	Haoliang Feng

ACT I

<i>The Prince's Companions</i>	Olivia Chang-Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Alisa Garkavenko, Yuki Sugiura, Gabriel Anderson, Noah Campbell, Ryan Felix, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
<i>Two Courtesans</i>	Lucy Waine, Amelia Thompson
<i>Court Ladies, Courtiers, Ladies in Waiting</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Three-minute pause: please remain seated

ACT II

<i>Cygnets</i>	Olivia Chang-Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Yasemin Kayabay, Sofia Liñares
<i>Two Swan Maidens</i>	Frieda Kaden, Alexandra Manuel,

INTERVAL

ACT III

<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Rory Mackay
<i>Hungarian Princess</i>	Rachelle Pizzillo
<i>Polish Princess</i>	Rosanna Ely
<i>Italian Princess</i>	Frieda Kaden
<i>Czárdás</i>	Sophie Walters, Louis Andreasen and Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Mazurka</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
<i>Neapolitan Dance</i>	Olivia Chang-Clarke, Maïlène Katoch, John Fontanini, Thomas Kujawa
<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Ava May Llewellyn, Yuki Sugiura, Gabriel Anderson, Ixan Ferrer
<i>Ambassadors, Pages, Guards, Attendants and Courtiers</i>	Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT IV

Swan Maidens, Cygnets Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Thomas Jung

Approximate timings

Act I 34 minutes; *pause* 3 minutes; *Act II* 33 minutes

Interval 20 minutes; *Act III* 38 minutes;

Interval 15 minutes; *Act IV* 20 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 10.20pm

First Violins

Robert Gibbs *Leader*
Joana
Valentinaviciute
Vanessa David
Boglarka Gyorgy
Caroline Ferriman
Jennifer Thurston
Timothy Wilford
Amanda Britton
Robbie Bilson
Cathy Hamer

Second Violins

Ruth Heney
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Caroline Bodimead
Suzannah Quirke
Glesni Roberts

Violas

Errika Collins
James Flannery
May Dolan
Ros Cabot
Matthew Johnstone

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Arthur Boutillier
Rosie Banks-Francis
Cormac O'Briain

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Alexander Verster
Melissa Favell-Wright
Will Puhr

Flutes

Anna Wolstenholme
Jimena de Vincente
Alvarez
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Amy Turner
Vanessa Howells

Clarinets

Harry Penny
Hannah Morgan

Bassoons

Alex Callanan
Ruth Rosales

Horns

Andrew Littlemore
Chris Beagles
Chris Pointon
Alex Hocknull
Nicholas Wolmark

Cornets

Chris Deacon
Sam Kinrade

Trumpets

Chris Evans
Steve Walton

Trombones

Amos Miller
Andrew White
Ed Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Paula O'Malley
Iolo Edwards
Joseph Mathers

Harp

Susan Blair

The Story

Act I *A courtyard in the castle*

Following his father's death, Prince Siegfried will be crowned king and must marry. He dreads the loss of his freedom and has no wish to marry. It is his 21st birthday and his equerry, Benno, has arranged an entertainment to divert him. His friends present him with a crossbow, but in the middle of these celebrations the Dowager Queen arrives. She is shocked at the revelry while the court is in mourning and reminds Siegfried that he must choose a bride from three Princesses who will attend a grand reception. Benno attempts to cheer Siegfried up with the help of two courtesans. When the dancers have gone, a flight of swans passes and Benno suggests that Siegfried try out his new crossbow. They depart in pursuit.

Act II *The lakeside by moonlight*

It is midnight and Baron von Rothbart, an evil magician, awaits the arrival of the Princess Odette and her companions. He has transformed them into swans and it is only between midnight and dawn that they can return to human form. Von Rothbart hides when Siegfried arrives. Left alone, Siegfried sees a swan which, to his amazement, changes into a beautiful maiden, the Princess Odette. She explains that her enchantment can only be broken if someone who has never loved before swears an oath of undying love. Von Rothbart appears and Prince Siegfried attempts to shoot him, but Odette explains that if the magician dies the spell can never be broken. Dawn

approaches. Prince Siegfried declares his love and swears to be true for eternity. Odette promises him that she will visit him the following night at the castle.

Act III *The ballroom of the castle*

At the grand reception three Princesses dance for Siegfried, but his thoughts are elsewhere. A fanfare announces the arrival of two uninvited guests; they are von Rothbart, disguised as an ambassador, and his daughter Odile, whom the sorcerer has transformed to look like Odette. The Prince believes her to be the Swan Princess. While Odile and the Prince dance, Odette keeps her promise and appears at the window, but his attention is distracted by the magician’s spell. Infatuated, Siegfried asks for Odile’s hand in marriage. Von Rothbart makes him swear his love for her and as Siegfried does so, Odette again appears at the window. The court is thrown into confusion and, in despair, the Prince rushes out in search of Odette.

Act IV *The lakeside*

Odette returns to the swan maidens, distraught and wishing to drown herself while she is still in human form. Realising Siegfried is following her, von Rothbart creates a storm in a vain attempt to stop him. Siegfried arrives and begs Odette’s forgiveness. Sadly, she tells him that she forgives him but nothing can change the fact that his vow has been broken. Odette and Siegfried decide they cannot live apart and will die together. Odette throws herself into the lake and von Rothbart is thwarted in his attempt to stop Siegfried following her. Dawn breaks. The spell is broken as the lovers are united in a world of eternal love.

SIR PETER WRIGHT