

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday 26 September 2025

Birmingham Hippodrome

CURTAIN RAISER

Luminous

World premiere

Freefall Dance Company

Choreography Freefall Dance Company and Lee Fisher; **Music** Richard Syner

**Tom Bright Tara Bishop Eleanor Bresnen Chris Brookes Hannah Clarke
Nicky Hodges Shaun Hodges Barry Kirby Luci Miles Josef Reed**

Freefall Dance Company forms an integral part of BRB's community engagement programme. Established in 2002, Freefall comprises ten highly gifted dancers with learning disabilities facilitated by BRB staff, freelance artists and teaching assistants.

Through ballet training, performances, film making and their own programme of school and community engagement, the company enables its dancers to freely express themselves and their individualities in a supportive and creative environment.

After 23 years of building a loyal audience through their performances at the Birmingham Hippodrome's Patrick Studio, this evening represents a huge milestone for Freefall – a chance for the dancers to showcase their talents on the iconic Hippodrome main stage.

Luminous features specially composed music that took its early inspiration from both Black Sabbath's familiar catalogue of music and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

For full credits, please see the end of this castsheet

Black Sabbath – The Ballet

Director Carlos Acosta; **Original Music** Black Sabbath; **Music Consultant** Tony Iommi;

Lead Composer, Project Music Supervisor, Christopher Austin;

Lead Choreographer and Artistic Director Pontus Lidberg;

Dramaturg Richard Thomas; **Designer** Alexandre Arrechea; **Lighting Designer** K.J;

Sound Production and Design Joshua Blair; **Metal Curator** Lisa Meyer

Black Sabbath – The Ballet is a Ballet Now commission. Ballet Now is generously supported by Oak Foundation's Special Interest Programme. We are also grateful to the John S Cohen Foundation, the John Feeney Charitable Trust, the Wood and Steven Charitable Trust, the Oakley Charitable Trust and The Owen Family Trust for their support of *Black Sabbath – The Ballet*.

Thanks also go to Alan and Caroline Howard, and Arts Council England for supporting our international touring of the production to date.

This performance includes occasional use of dry ice, smoke, flashing lights and loud music. It features archival voiceovers from the band and others; these include some bleeped-out swearing and references to drug use.

Act I: Heavy Metal Ballet

Composers Marko Nyberg, Christopher Austin;

Orchestrators Joshua Hickin, Christopher Austin;

Choreographer Raúl Reinoso;

Black Sabbath Arrangement Marko Nyberg, Joshua Hickin, Christopher Austin

Featuring: *War Pigs, Iron Man, Solitude, Paranoid*

Rosanna Ely Reina Fuchigami Frieda Kaden Yasemin Kayabay

Hannah Martin Andrea Riolo Amelia Thompson Sophie Walters

Louis Andreasen Ryan Felix Haoliang Feng Ixan Llorca Ferrer

John Fontanini Thomas Kujawa Mason King Luca Mollica

Frieda Kaden Ryan Felix

Olivia Chang-Clarke

Frieda Kaden Ryan Felix

Andrea Riolo Ixan Llorca Ferrer

Guitarist Marc Hayward

INTERVAL

Act II: The Band

Composer Sun Keting; **Orchestrators** Sun Keting, Christopher Austin;

Choreographer Cassi Abranches; **Black Sabbath Arrangement** Sun Keting

Featuring: *Black Sabbath, Orchid, Planet Caravan, Sabbath Bloody Sabbath*

Charlotte Cohen Amber Cook Ellyne Knol

Eilis Small Lynsey Sutherland Sophie Walters

Louis Andreasen Alfie-Lee Hall Tom Hazelby

Marlo Kempsey-Fagg Mason King Thomas Kujawa

Marlo Kempsey-Fagg

Frieda Kaden

Yaoqian Shang Lachlan Monaghan

Singer Ryan Felix

INTERVAL

Act III: Everybody is a Fan

Composer & Orchestrator Christopher Austin; **Choreographer** Pontus Lidberg;

Black Sabbath Arrangement Christopher Austin

Featuring: *Iron Man, Black Sabbath, Sabbath Bloody Sabbath, War Pigs, Paranoid, Laguna Sunrise*

Reina Fuchigami Miki Mizutani Yaoqian Shang

Yuki Sugiura Amelia Thompson

Tzu-Chao Chao Ryan Felix Riku Ito

Lachlan Monaghan Javier Rojas

Miki Mizutani Riku Ito

Javier Rojas

The full cast

Guitarist Marc Hayward

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Christopher Austin

First Violins

Robert Gibbs *Leader*
Joana Valentiniaviciute
Vanessa David
Amanda Brown
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Caroline Ferriman
Jennifer Thurston

Second Violins

Thomas Grundy
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Suzannah Quirke

Violas

Errika Collins
Jamie Howe
Emily Clark
Hannah Horton

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Maya Kashif
Francesca Cull

Doubles Bases

Alex Verster

William Puhr

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
Sandra Skipper *Piccolo*

Oboes

Rachel Harwood-White
Vanessa Howells *Cor anglais*

Clarinets

Ian Scott
James Maltby *Bass*

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales *Contra*

Horns

Richard Dilley
Alastair Rycroft
Jo Withers
David Horwich
Alex Hocknull

Trumpets

Michael Allen
Christopher Deacon

Trombones

Amos Miller
Andrew White
Edward Hilton

Tuba

David Gordon Shute

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Aidan Hammond

Drums

Ian Whitehead

Guitars

Tom Ellis
Marcus Pritchard

Harp

Elin Samuel

Piano / Celeste

Jeanette Wong

Approximate timings

Freefall Dance Company Curtain Raiser 5 minutes

Act I 30 minutes ; *Interval* 20 minutes;

Act II 30 minutes ; *Interval* 20 minutes; *Act III* 30 minutes.

This performance will finish at approximately 9.50pm

Please do not take photographs or film during the performance.

You are welcome to take photographs or film during the curtain calls.

Don't miss our

Black Sabbath – The Ballet T-shirts

Available now in the main foyer or via our online shop

[**brb.org.uk/Shop**](http://brb.org.uk/Shop)

CURTAIN RAISER TEAM

Freefall Artistic Director Lee Fisher

Project Manager Hannah MacGregor

Accompanist Richard Syner

Dance Artists Faye O'Connor, Yvette Knight, Jenny Murphy,
Samanatha Walsh (Apprentice)

Learning Support Assistant Ruth Henderson

Music

Composer and Keyboards Richard Syner

Producer & Percussion Kevin Earley (Royal Ballet Sinfonia)

Drums Matt Senior

Guitar Justin Quinn, Matt Isaac

Bass Marcus Pritchard

Recorded and mixed at Rosewood Studios, Surrey

Costumes

Costume Supervisor Kay Wilton

With thanks for the generous support for Freefall received from

The Blakebank Trust, The Eveson Trust, The Rowlands Trust,
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, Crofts & Assinder, Hortons' Estate Limited,
PMP Consultants, The Alan Woodfield Charitable Trust, The Alison Hillman Charitable Trust,
The Charles Brotherton Trust, David Solomons Charitable Trust, Dumbreck Charity,
The Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust, The Hawthorne Charitable Trust,
The John Avins Trust, The Marsh Charitable Trust,
The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, The Misses C M Pearson & M V Williams Charitable Trust,
RTR Foundation and Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, The Vandervell Foundation,
and all anonymous trusts and foundations, and other supporters of Freefall.