BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Wednesday 28 October 2026, Sadler's Wells Theatre

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)

Odette/Odile	**Yu Kurihara**
Prince Siegfried	**Yasiel Hodelín**
The Queen Mother	**Daria Stanciulescu**
Baron von Rothbart	**Jonathan Payn**
Benno *Prince Siegfried's Friend*	**Riku Ito**

ACT I

The Prince's Companions	**Olivia Chang-Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Alexandra Manuel, Yuki Sugiura, Gabriel Anderson, Noah Campbell, Ryan Felix, Ixan Ferrer**
Two Courtesans	**Reina Fuchigami, Katherine Ochoa**
Court Ladies, Courtiers, Ladies in Waiting	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Three-minute pause: please remain seated

ACT II

Cygnets	**Olivia Chang-Clarke, Rosanna Ely, Sofia Liñares, Rachele Pizzillo**
Two Swan Maidens	**Alisa Garkavenko, Yuki Sugiura**

INTERVAL

ACT III

Master of Ceremonies	**Rory Mackay**
Hungarian Princess	**Alisa Garkavenko**
Polish Princess	**Rosanna Ely**
Italian Princess	**Katherine Ochoa**
Czárdás	**Ava May Llewellyn, Louis Andreasen and Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Mazurka	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Neapolitan Dance	**Olivia Chang-Clarke, Rachele Pizzillo Ryan Felix, John Fontanini**
Spanish Dance	**Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura, Gabriel Anderson, Ixan Ferrer**
Ambassadors, Pages, Guards, Attendants and Courtiers	**Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

INTERVAL

ACT IV

Swan Maidens, Cygnets **Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy

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

Second Violins
Elise Scheurer
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Robert Simmons
Charlotte Dodwell
Paul Barrett
Shelley Deacon

Violas
Errika Collins
James Flannery
Emily Clark
Hannah Horton
Hannah Roberts

Cellos
António Novais
Abi Hyde-Smith
Jane Rainey
Alessandro Sanguineti
Tiago Silva

Doubles Basses
Fabian Galeana
Georgia Lloyd
Katy Furmanski
Levi Andreassen

Flutes
Anna Wolstenholme
Jane Dixon-Wayne
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes
Rachel Harwood White
Sarah Harper

Clarinets
Ian Scott
Fresca David

Bassoons
Luke Tucker
Ruth Rosales

Horns
Andrew Littlemore
David Horwich
Richard Dilley
Alastair Rycroft
Tim Anderson

Cornets
Michael Allen
Julie Ryan

Trumpets
Christopher Deacon
Steve Walton

Trombones
Amos Miller
Andrew White
Ed Hilton

Tuba
David Gordon Shute

Timpani
Grahame King

Percussion
Kevin Earley
Jonathan Raper
John McCutcheon
Austin Beattie

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*

Is 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 Siegfied 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