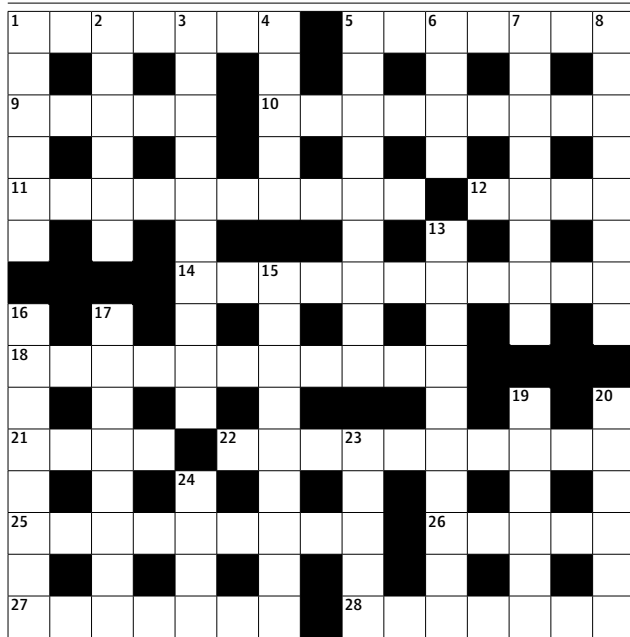


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,621 set by Crucible

Across

- 1 Composer starts losing tempo, say, gutted (7)
- 5 Performers are childless reformers (7)
- 9 Rare working party piece that's repeated (5)
- 10 Traditional Gaelic music performed with delay now and then on river (6-3)
- 11 Mercurial character in book: it's set in turbulent Italy (10)
- 12 Woman doesn't finish change (4)
- 14 1 across piece, a version of Cinderella, captivates its composer's heart (5,2,4)
- 18 An opera is rewritten to include Queen's instrument (6,5)
- 21 Radical Paris edition of the Pink 'Un? (4)
- 22,17 Engineer made Freudian slip describing middle of tune, 1 across piece (6-4,3,5)
- 25 Steak went off stuffed with duck (extra large) (9)
- 26 Not as convincing as 1 across piece (2,3)
- 27 Played together better stripped – Moore's outstanding (7)
- 28 Use it to trace letters from angry clients (7)

Down

- 1 Trace source of echo in Verdi orchestration (6)
- 2 British and German article abroad makes a pile (6)
- 3 Initially, stiff drink damages penile extensions? (6,4)

- 4 This is not art, perhaps – and trained Tyroleans do it (5)
- 5 Check old song picked up in music halls (9)
- 6 Rang, say, and drove home (4)
- 7 Rolls here supported with drink (4,4)
- 8 Step unsteadily over tiny adult plant (5,3)
- 13 Dragonfly from French-German river I caught (10)
- 15 A very quiet Scottish singer nearly died, clapped out? (9)
- 16 I worried about short solo by daughter, being unaccompanied (8)
- 17 See 22
- 19 Black Magic represented as fast food (3,3)
- 20 Irish Republican breaks law over in part of Merseyside (6)
- 23 Seizes women leaving bars with no music? (5)
- 24 2 of banknotes offering security (4)

Solution No. 25,620

R	O	B	I	N	S	O	N	C	R	U	S	O	E
I	R	A	F	E	W	D							
S	C	I	M	I	T	A	R	I	S	L	A	N	D
I	D	R	L	I	E	Y	Y						
N	O	G	E	N	T	L	E	M	A	N			
G	E												
D	E	L	T	A	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E
A	E	S	U	D	U	M	R						
M	I	S	C	H	A	R	G	E	L	I	M	I	T
P	S	B	V	R	O	I							
A	I	U	Y	T	N	A	I						
D	E	S	E	R	T	D	E	N	T	U	R	E	S
A	I	N	L	R	C	E							
M	U	S	K	E	T	M	Y	F	A	T	H	E	R