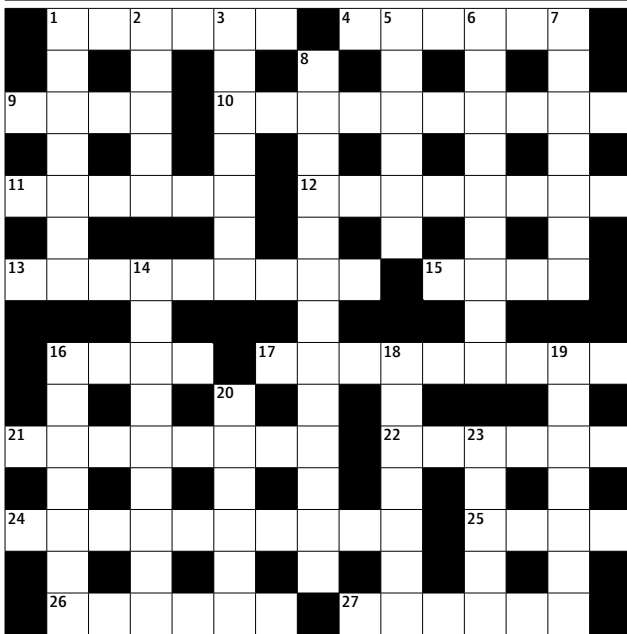


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,100 set by Brendan

Across

- 1 Conduct oneself in original duets from Beethoven, Handel, and Verdi (6)
- 4 Famous Bohemian wanting vodka, shaken or stirred? That's about right (6)
- 9 Peers inside a box (4)
- 10 Excelling with toy piano in middle of trip (3-7)
- 11 Sultanate finally independent, earlier administered by British (6)
- 12 Codes I repeatedly broke, resulting in crazy actions (8)
- 13 Presentation of news about wine years (9)
- 15 Term of endearment among Welsh musical family (4)
- 16 Combination of notes that has bars he composed randomly (4)
- 17 Group of musicians one over 8, say? (9)
- 21 Continuous ringing reduced what's spoken in legal setting, mostly (8)
- 22 Another composer using Monsieur Lehar's variation (6)
- 24 Mean types taking in chief player – they are not to be trusted (10)
- 25 Bread and butter, possibly (4)
- 26 Score stored in closet went yellow (6)
- 27 Time in musical piece fine for Hungarian folklorist (6)

Down

- 1 French dance, having drunk our beer (7)

- 2 It's unusually handy for father of 8 (5)
- 3 Combination of sex, love and desire for player (7)
- 5 Product of Cremona – some ravioli, namely (6)
- 6 Again present in theatre, a king imprisoned? (9)
- 7 In archaic style, knows Scottish monarch (7)
- 8 3, 16 down and two 5's compose it, as have 4, 20 and others here (6,7)
- 14 Corrupt gaoler holding down one criminal, ultimately, in part of cell (9)
- 16 Irishman, perhaps, crossing line is player taking a bow (7)
- 18 South African plant's name is originally entered by European (7)
- 19 High-flier that sings in 8 by 2 (3,4)
- 20 Child prodigy reduced weight in minutes with magic (6)
- 23 He produced astronomic score in first of tests after break (5)

Solution No. 26,099

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