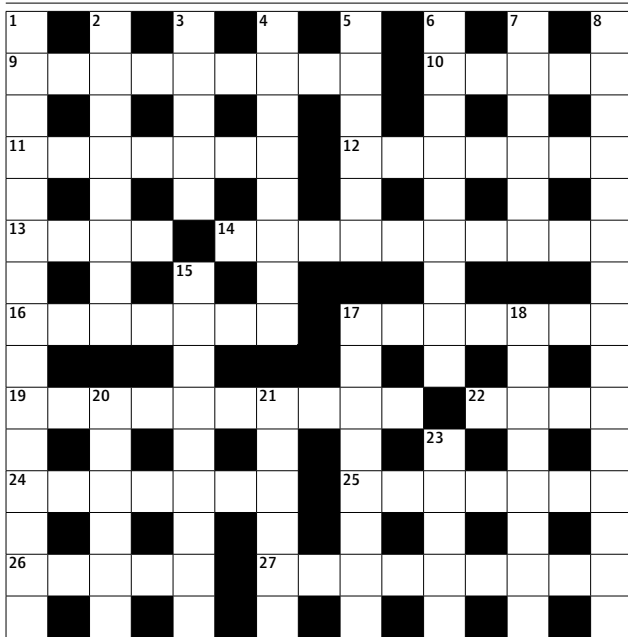


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,128 set by Picaroon

Across

- 9** After theological study, fidgety pope was first to get settled again (9)
10 Republican Party keeps playing some classical music (5)
11 Tritest Brahms and Liszt passages from fugues (7)
12 Relief from outspoken fool (7)
13 Promise made by Liberal, one that could be false? (4)
14 Heading for Egyptian resort, bore acquires eastern footwear (10)
16 Disheartened topless siren ordered implants (7)
17 Person regularly sulks about hotel – is it Sibyl? (7)
19 Sliding discipline is besetting church racing to get rid of rector (3,7)
22 RIP – a sign of mourning (4)
24 Clobber soldiers going into shock (7)
25 Jazzy piece follows considerably old medley (7)
26 Where footballer may play with ball is not yet settled (5)
27 Noble woman embracing unknown, who won't linger in bed (5,4)

Down

- 1** Figure captivated by performing artist – rope tricks are his speciality (15)
2 Debt taken on by football club, not Real (8)

- 3** Crazy like ... (5)

- 4** ... one Greek character constrained by measures (8)
5 Port's excessive consumption close to binge – idiot's thrown up (6)
6 Page comes back with gold for herald (9)
7 Open out list containing Ban Ki-moon's name? (6)
8 Will they make smut, rude bits, blue gags, even some vile oath that isn't very nice? (4-6,5)
15 Activity in the City gets you skint? Then see red! (9)
17 Head of army in favour of donning long dress (8)
18 In conversation, loftier Greek is suitable for priests (8)
20 Wit from Rabelais, mischievous creature sending up English (6)
21 Ploughman's lunch for a starter eaten by workman (6)
23 French vote for elevated, divine female (5)

Solution No. 26,127

