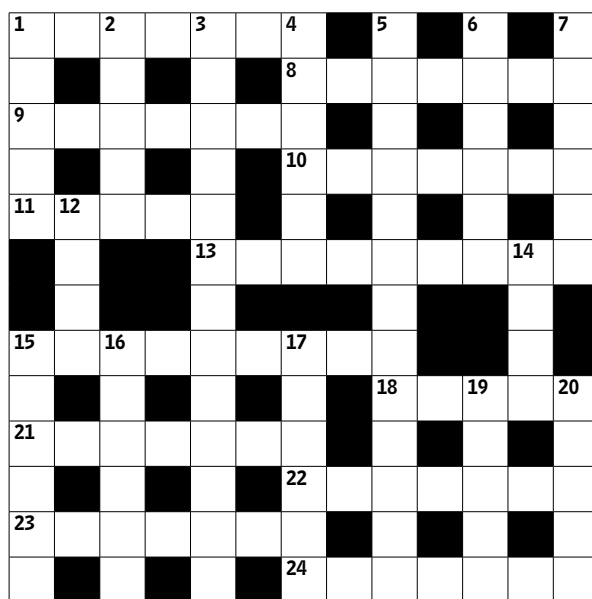
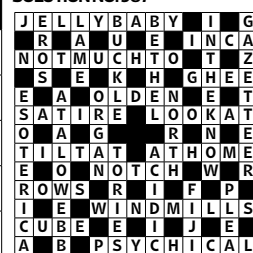


## SPEEDY CROSSWORD NO. 988



SOLUTION NO. 987



### ACROSS

**1/8** Influence from behind the scenes (4,3,7)

**9** Games, quadrennial in occurrence (7)

**10** Inflexible (7)

**11** Bout of indulgence (5)

**13** Steps in (9)

**15** Ready and willing to be taught (9)

**18** Kind of ray (5)

**21** Country, the former SW Africa (7)

**22** On the fence (7)

**23/24** Highly amused (7,2,5)

### DOWN

**1** World's largest classical music festival, held annually (inf) (5)

**2** Stratum (5)

**3** Starred (6,3,4)

**4** Steep artificial slope in front of a fortification (6)

**5** Change the accepted style or way of doing of things (5,3,5)

**6** Relatives by marriage (2-4)

**7** Like now (2,2,2)

**12** Ask (as in a question) (4)

**14** Give off (4)

**15** Convictions (6)

**16** Cleric's cape; alternative name for amice (6)

**17** Willy -----, Chancellor of W Germany, 1969-1974 (6)

**19** Bellini opera (5)

**20** God in Islam (5)