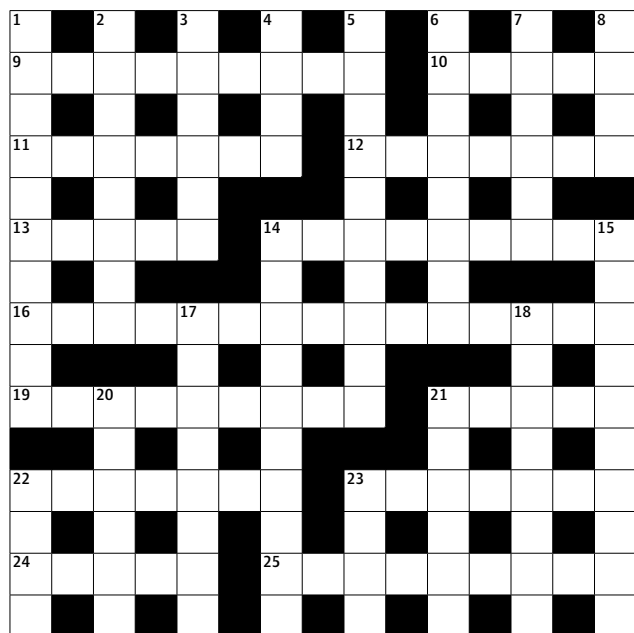


GUARDIAN EASTER CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



A

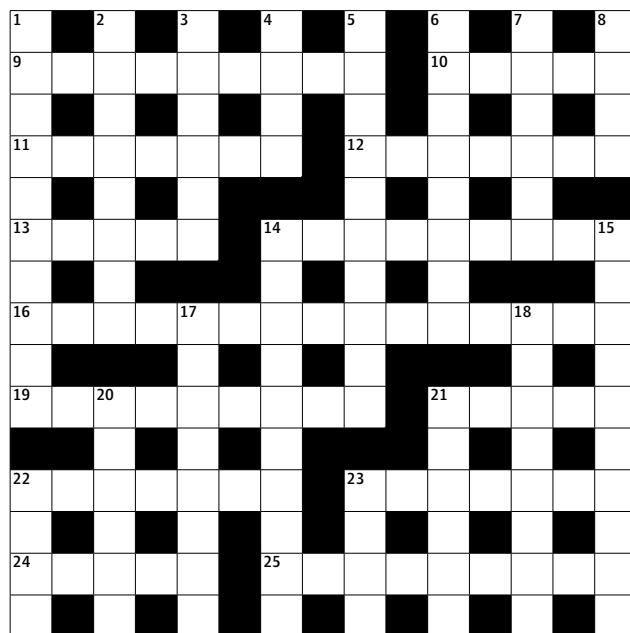
No 25,909 set by Araucaria

Two operatic bicentenaries occur this year: one composer and solutions relating to him go into grid A; solutions relating to the other (who is not named) go into grid B. Clues for both grids have been run together and either part may belong to either grid.

Across

- 9 Memorial call before game to Geordieland singer found by king of Italy (9;9)
- 10 A party member's first defence from clever dick's composer (5;5)
- 11 Journey conducted and repeated twice, half by Shakespearean lady's country (7;7)

- 12 Breathe when drunk into drink that can be drunk with acknowledgement by Blake when drunk (4,3;7)
- 13 Girl with sign for sodium flower preceding 4(B) in opera (5;5)
- 14 Old acorns used by infante agreeing at all points with sound of pig holding note (3,6;9)
- 16 No cabs are coming out for top Genoese boy or girl for service in meal – boy for December (5,10;9,6)
- 19 Knight of the 17(B) to see female smile, male in quarrel, wholly to exclude the Scots? (9;5,4)
- 21 Flying man's wife or boss sent back by hunter (5;5)



B

- 22 Animals in 15(B) 23 down(A) in 14 across(A) – electronics company without outsize note (7;7)
- 23 City to be supplied with real bus now not having to be paid for? (7;7)
- 24 Suicidal heroine dispatched by a goddess, friend of consumptive heroine (5;5)
- 25 Mother of hero, poor Nigel, inside jester's outfit, with rings round one from 3(A) (9;9)

Down

- 1 Butler nearly fixed car with oil, with no need to answer settler's attempt to raise some resilience (10;10)
- 2 Implement production area where 21 down(A), losing heart and confused, then raised well-known witch's mate (8;8)
- 3 Heroine that's disposed of inside country where artist and volunteers leave opera (6;6)
- 4 Girl taking sign from heroine left in Wotan's ring? (4;4)
- 5 Last light in background for tabloid performed by force of habit in meal could be a cinch (7,3;10)
- 6 Brünnhilde's farewell cut short by liturgical piece smothered by love poet (not English) 8;8)
- 7 Savage to blurt out about a devilish casserole that can be 60% put right (6;6)
- 8 Pretend to be a Nibelung to help a heroine (4;4)
- 14 Fall further behind having broken rod on part of horse, some coming with pledge to find modus vivendi (4,6;10)
- 15 Male people's failure to move house abroad in twice three-penny opera (10;10)
- 17 Celebrated authentic holy relic without loss of life on figure-head in birthplace, perhaps (8;3-5)
- 18 Toadstool found by orphaned Belgian painter outside home counties making home as that of badger on heath (8;8)

- 20 Man's name in field with island saint, but one with house abroad (6;6)
- 21 Profoundly deaf leaders' answer topped books at length getting round Venetian general (6;6)
- 22 Knight of the river's river's second river was on top of his distemper (4;4)
- 23 Merry Meg taken from book, one that buzzes loudly for food (4;4)

Solution No. 25,908



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