

Say My Name

By Susan Glass and Aaron Fuegi

Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams, and Beyoncé are hanging out backstage before a Destiny's Child reunion tour stop in Boston. Kelly and Michelle are talking while Beyoncé vocalizes to warm up.

K: Look – I see our friends Tina, Steven and Katie in the audience!

M: [looking] A whole bunch of other friends are out there as well – Arnold, Ian, and Emily are a few rows back.

K: Wow you're right – I didn't notice them! I guess it being 2026 and all, and "T" being the 20th letter of the 26-letter English alphabet, I'm hearing the "Tee" sound everywhere I go.

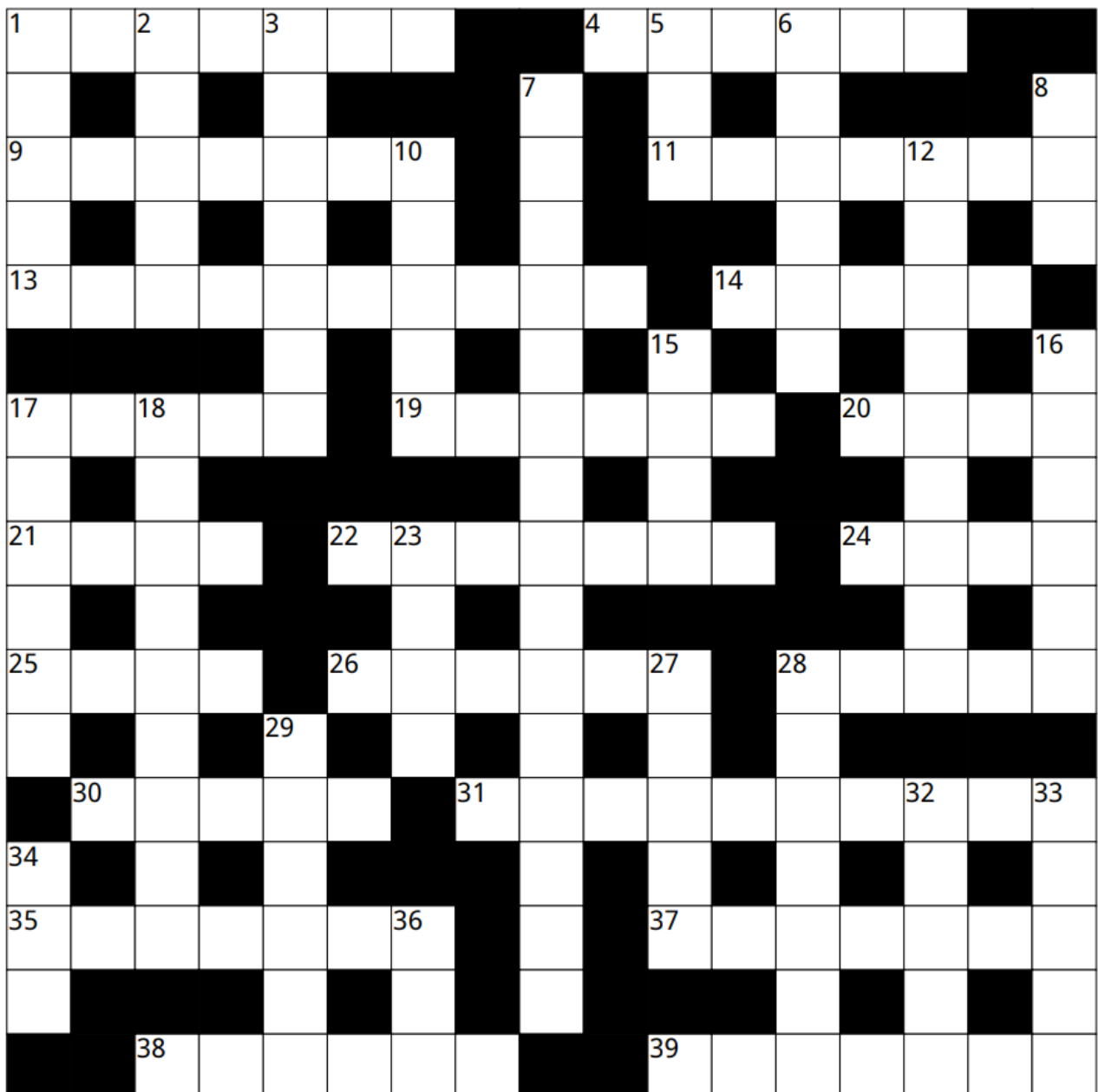
M: Funny how the same sound has so many different spellings.

K: As musicians, we know that it's the sound that's important, not the looks.

B: Don't I know it! I hate it when people say my name as "BAY-ON-SAY" instead of "BEE-ON-SAY" as it should be pronounced! Just remember, I'm the Queen "Bee"! (bell rings) OK time for the sound check - let's go! (All exit)

Thirteen of the across clues are special in that the definition and wordplay parts of the clue don't quite agree. Their thematically appropriate relationship and entry into the grid is for you to figure out, but they are all done in a consistent way. Down clues are all normal.

We ask solvers to forgive the unintentional excess uncrossed letters – we'll do better on our second cryptic!



We appreciate the testsolving and advice we got from Katie Hamill and Ronnie Kon as we constructed this puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1 A team member is a problem (7)
- 4 Gossip precedes moonstruck star athlete taking a bow (6)
- 9 Look intently at a ballet ruined (7)
- 11 Sounds like local subway life is grinding to a halt (7)
- 13 Famous horse leaves bridle part securing center of discus (10)
- 14 Darling girl is married about noon at the end of May (5)
- 17 Balance tangled laces (5)
- 19 Prince reigns badly (6)
- 20 Sore characters from The Cincinnati Kid (4)
- 21 Liberal follower of a failed state (4)
- 22 Strange love and chance? Player for a Pennsylvania sports team (7)
- 24 Shock nuts? Nuts! (4)
- 25 Like a fortune that's smaller than usual? (4)
- 26 Biblical queen dressed in white eternally (6)
- 28 Like a stronghold raid? (5)
- 30 A tropical seabird's type of call? (5)
- 31 King/page are axe-wielding virtuosos (10)
- 35 Risk of fat pill is distorted (7)
- 37 Quiet type of republic drops a billion to form a 1950s rock revival group? (3 2 2)
- 38 Chaotic, tense tantrums (6)
- 39 Underwear tycoon is slowing down? (7)

DOWN

- 1 Powers lead a murderous Halloween slasher? (5)
- 2 Tesla is transporting a large stone pillar (5)
- 3 Devious first wife is given a retroactive travel permit (7)
- 5 CSX and B&O are last of all car transporter companies (3)
- 6 After losing Matt, eccentric Father Time becomes young female with large gentle eyes (6)
- 7 A percentage plus nothing contains, at the outset, less than half one -- that's logical reasoning (8 7)
- 8 I can be found in Oregon (3)
- 10 Site that sounds like a singular Avengers frenemy? (5)
- 12 Dictionary with "y" torn out is flawed; it foreshadows things to come (9)
- 15 Large hirsute guy is wearing his birthday suit, we hear (4)
- 16 Caesar discussed joint announcement for Commonwealth city (6)
- 17 Southern cooks bring out the masses (6)
- 18 Behaving badly when confusing toga with tunic (6 3)
- 23 Contentment is found in a tea service (4)
- 27 Some plutocrat established prices (5)
- 28 After changing soft to loud, tamper badly with a musical notation (7)
- 29 Destroy a table arrangement (6)
- 32 Southwest French friend is a religious teacher (5)
- 33 Blended unique lasagna ingredients are sus, perhaps (5)
- 34 Sean Penn arrived first of all for the hot tub (3)
- 36 Naked air traveler is a myth (3)