

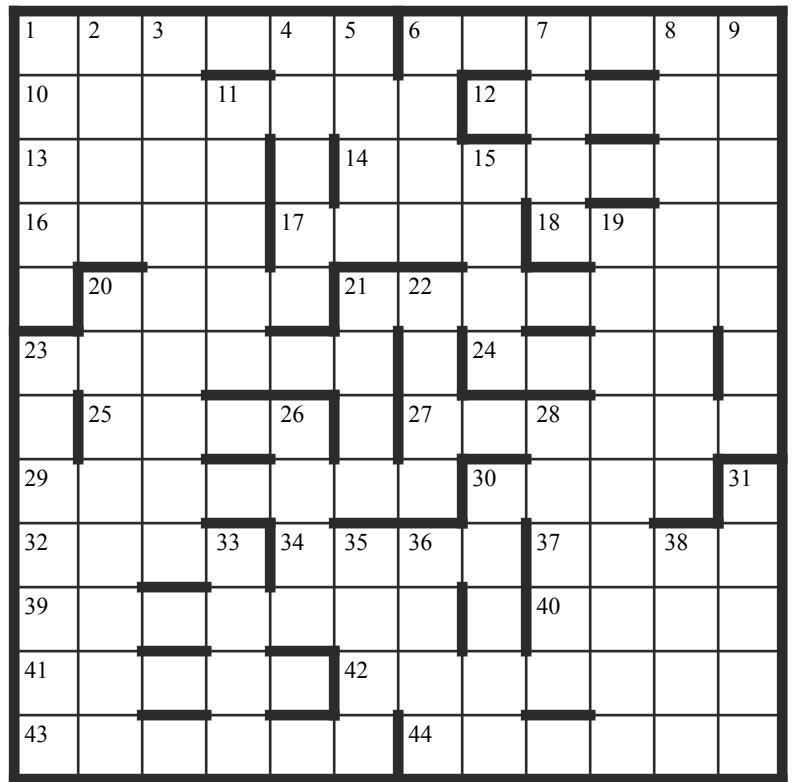
Afternoon Event by Ucaoimhu

Happy birthday, Tortoise! This puzzle offers an alternative to the usual birthday song. Specifically:

(1) One Down entry in each column will have a multiletter sequence in one “special” square, where a crossing Across entry has one letter. (When it is ambiguous which square is special, take the earliest option.) Some sequences will be musical notes; top to bottom, these will form an excerpt from the song. The rest, top to bottom, will give the two note lengths which are used in alternation in this excerpt.

(2) The wordplay of each clue *not* involved in (1) yields a letter string with one wrong letter. Find the wrong letter in the list below, and write the right letter above or below as indicated. The letters above will name the song’s writer; those below, a category Cole Porter put him in.

(3) Once you know the song, put the excerpt’s lyrics on the squares with its notes, *top to bottom*; the Across letters in *all* the special squares *left to right* will name a hobby of mine for which these lyrics would be apt. Then sing these lyrics *left to right* to get a birthday song that is apt for what is named by those Across letters *top to bottom*.



ACROSS

1. Climbing equipment that's 6283.1853+ pounds
6. Continent and UK moving back line
10. After drinking NH beer, I had had aspirations
12. Island nation chiefly needs an update regarding Peru
13. Mister Lee's barkless oak or maple
14. Rodent near Chester is something with teeth
16. She-horse flipped over Chuckles
17. One lacking ring clamps gold to finger
18. To be in part of Canada or part of Eritrea
20. Amphibian left feast before the end
21. Loveless Argentine cowpoke . . . um, is less suave
23. Shakespearean aphrodisiac ingested by tern 'n' goose
24. Orator's nasty look
25. No host recalled encouraging contraction
27. Every other piece of her nice agate is put in a grotto
29. What offers digital protection to big house online?
30. Bear offspring with energy and power
32. Bless ruby cross depicting small individual
34. Heartlessly quiz ump about *The Godfather's* author
37. Ancient city's "what's essentially she-bear-like"!
39. Biblical queen almost gutted the lover of Beauty
40. Couples with spirit doing somersaults
41. Quintet from Dnieperlike place in Belgium
42. Latin for "Paris," "string instrument," and "songbird"
43. Case of Schlitz in front hides crazy curve (*hyph.*)
44. Philly hoopsters sounded ill, gentlemen

DOWN

1. Superficially perused your brief
2. Cable having its first half twisted about (2 wds.)
3. Then query arm-waving group Lennon was in (2 wds.)
4. Making a mosaic that's askew, being uncentered
5. Religious rite involving no ice or bodily fluids
6. Retro band singing "The Sweetest Taboo Is Cheese"
7. Go fast and far towards heaven and earth
8. Beforehand, clear up confusion of lover's peer
9. Muse with dress of ecru at her gym
11. Shows fondness for dens too excitedly (2 wds.)
15. Boredom makes one start to enjoy prayer (2 wds.)
19. He bleats out weird Hegelian term for ultimate reality (2 wds.)
20. Buildings holding cargo wild heifers sought (2 wds.)
21. Cobalt blue and indigo desert in Asia
22. Hear short train up above Toyota
23. Sent topless loser climbing atop secondary mezzanines
26. Scythe-user bared back of neck
28. 100 praise eastern composer Debussy
30. Male swan grabs at raccoon's relative
31. May amp up, unfortunately, Indian spice
33. Tito tosses it at each Titaness
35. Not apt to begin exhibiting uselessness!
36. Naughty figure's less naughty deity
38. Dior's evening out (at first) eleven skirts? Right