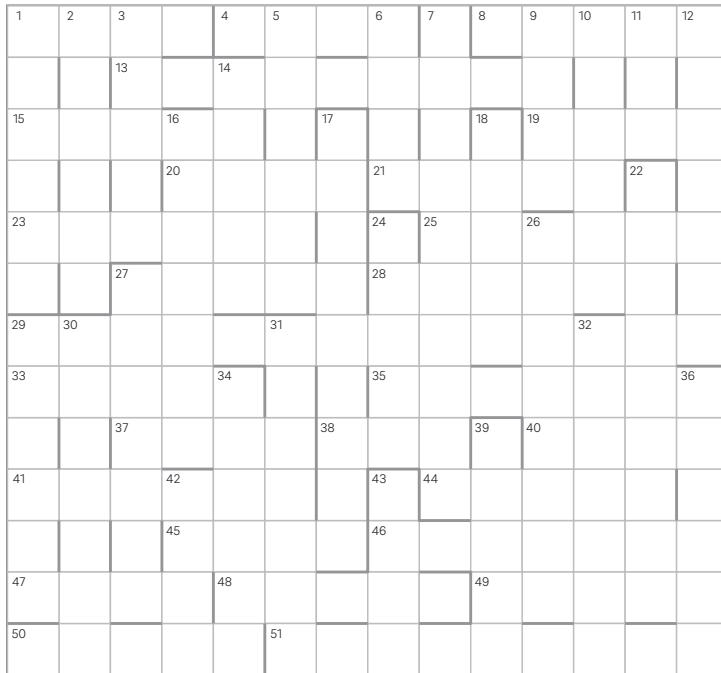


In the Shadows

Some squares contain non-alphabetic characters.

ACROSS

1. In performance, curse "big city" pro in debut season of *Nashville Star* (2-2)
4. From my point of view, Idol's beginning to encounter some resistance after setback? (4, *init.*)
8. Aggregate ticket sales and copy everyone? This takes some balls (5)
13. Style of dark techno using audio of exhalation and eructation backed by the guy who did "Walk It Out" (9)
15. Breakout label using A.I. to cover pitch (5)
19. CMA winner's line that goes on and on in concert (4)
20. Queen ft. One Direction (4)
21. Fuel ending early for Joel's frequent collaborator (5)
23. SoundCloud's signature tone has zero depth (6)
25. Switched up Bach for one of a 4-disc set of covers (6)
27. Face down hype, arriving at #1 (5)
28. One rejecting previous bit of change (6)
29. Rock writers and rock YouTube show that covered nine entries in the grid (and it's great, even if they are not) (14)
33. A model coming back for early installment of *Storytellers*? (5)
35. One by America that's terrible – lacking energy, making up language (7)
37. For example, peak position right now (4)
38. Kansas has a few unwanted listeners? (3, *init.*)
40. Lorde ultimately put the "green" in "Green Light" – it starts off chilly but gets hot (4)
41. Edges away from Jonas, drunk, that's going "hit after hit after hit" (2,1,3)
44. Gabriel and rival to score "Last Incarnation of Christ" (5)
45. Over an Entertainment Weekly (4)
46. Apple editing out beginning of lines in explicit Cardi B song (7)
47. Flow goes "flip it and reverse it" (4)
48. US folk supergroup covering "Father Figure" for cable channel (1-4)
49. "Doctor Love" and "Sad Songs (Start Like This)" – songs by the likes of Tones and I, say? (5)
50. Hit top of chart with *Reckless* (5)
51. Star cut intro to "Buffalo Stance" and stuff (9)



DOWN

1. "Hot Right Now" musician to add resistance for speaker (6)
2. Station limited by fundamental education protocol that's less than ideal (1,5)
3. Offering from local artist? It's quite a ways from Florida-Georgia Line (5)
5. Guys close to Cobain given a little space – they made "Teen Spirit" (6)
6. Taylor that's a youngster in old footage is vocally unfairly advantaged (4)
7. Stop pretending and accept "Hurt" has been improved (3,3,4)
9. Book rack contains a classic soul platter? (4)
10. Rapper's to nix cut that's over an hour (6)
11. Caterwaul in impression after "Emancipation of Mimi" (3)
12. Saves X during torrential tempest, taking a little time (7)
14. Yes, Crosby on CD (5)
16. Trainor's "All About ..." went bonkers (3,4)
17. Got the Grammy, say, before he and a follower served up "Live in the Moment" (2,4,3)
18. Bit of change? Quite a bit! (5)
22. Occasion for big musical spring parade: March in brief, like, file? Not quite (5,4)
24. Intentions of remixing A-side (5)
26. Time bore out one way to look at *Vitalogy*? (8)
27. Verse from "Fool" carried by Zeppelin guitarist (7)
29. Certain hooks from Alabama picked up by plenty (6)
30. Make it back into the top 10, say, by adding touch of electronica to "The Letter"? (7)
31. See live, with changes in sets (7)
32. Rants and raves when songs are played starting too late (5,2)
34. It shows some guts to include intro from "Africa" in hit (6)
36. Detachment leading up to critique's conclusion remains (6)
39. *Cheers* actor that appeared in Michael Jackson video and went onstage? (5)
42. Reverse of box showing many features (4)
43. Q-Tip gets pretty teary about expressing loss (4)