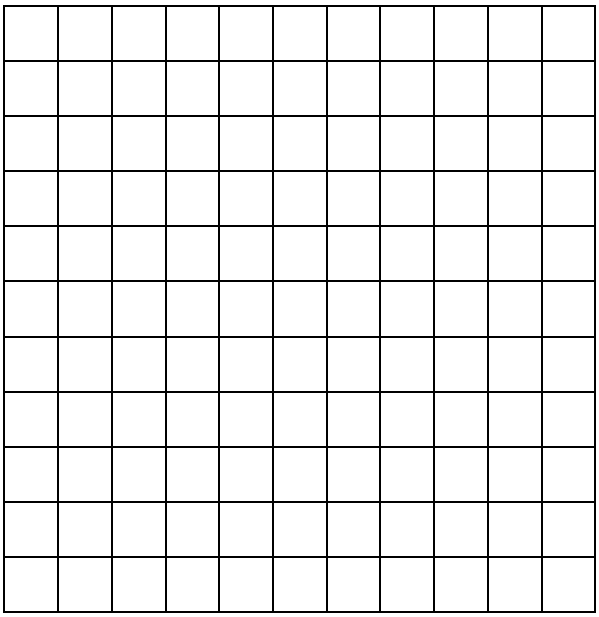
Puzzle #184 — September, 2016 "Contrapunctus"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, five are capitalized, and one is a prefix) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and seven down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a four-word phrase related to the title and the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Unlawfully tapes oral musical performance
3. Angel he drowned in raging Rubicon
4. Starts to build all new kitchen heap
5. Locus of centers of curvature at the midpoint, discerned by very old instrument
6. Voice veto is invalid
7. Laid back face
8. Strip of gutta-percha
9. Fancier turnaround before town uprising
10. Second period fluids
11. Outrageous price: about fifty a copy
12. Dash of melancholy
13. Talked about animal in show
14. Prize Christmas carol about bishop
15. Leading progression around Arkansas
16. Come across Flipper, dead
17. Rare metallic element containing hydrogen
18. Cheated wife leaves, making long tiresome speech
19. Trim father loses dollar
20. Prevent ruminant ingesting shirt
21. Put back, reset, or reformed
22. Go see six pose
23. Martial artist Nate is zero help in turn
24. Design Tesla's first factory

Down

1. Movie about rat's energy and violence lacking one kindly action
2. Something to drink, something to sleep on
3. Wild dog in action
4. Clapton is partly American
5. Bad, nasty, vile
6. One hundred bid for treasury
7. Narrow passage, empty of menace, is nothing
8. Abe did badly and stayed put
9. Henry in coat gives way to Peter in drag
10. Observed and heard something on stage
11. Letter included among epsilons
12. Toss horn over border
13. Cruel ground
14. Read a table containing facts and figures
15. Principal holds independent instrument
16. Southern tours rerouted after 1st of April
17. Unknown one in region
18. Petite flower part for a cat
19. Byword for part of speech
20. Ride around end of long crest
21. Birthing of large wild boar
22. Merit of learning
23. Rate a vault faulty from end to end
24. Squash isn't ripe, unspoiled, or clean