Let the Games Begin  Pete Muller

ACROSS
1. Word that keeps its meaning if you replace its first letter with a "T"
5. Songstress Laine who's the only female with Grammy nominations in pop, jazz, and classical music
9. Cobblestone's cousin
13. California rock band named for a Baum character
14. Song from "Oliver!" evoking a brass band
16. * 1974 Jackson 5 hit
18. Objects in many still lifes
19. Island birthplace of Mars
20. Bourbon in New Orleans and Houston in NYC, say
21. * 1971 Doors hit that was the answer to the third-ever MMMM (in 2012)
23. Former Decemberists violinist Haden who shares a name with a city in Jordan
25. Nissan brand since 1982
28. John Adams or his son John Quincy Adams, vis-à-vis Harvard
29. Tunes in 6/8, maybe
32. * 2006 Kenny Chesney hit with the line "It's hard lovin' a man that's got a gypsy soul"
34. "___ Midnight" (Eric Clapton tune)
36. Feast
37. Location of the last event overseen by the 41-Across
38. * 2008 Matisyahu hit
41. Org. that assigns many three-letter codes
44. Oscar Peterson album whose name sounds like a Danish toast
45. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
47. * 2008 Rihanna hit
52. "___ Never Sleeps" (Neil Young classic) (***)
53. Like most competitive crossword solvers
54. Mosquito-borne fever
56. Tease
58. * 1976 Rose Royce hit that was also a hit for Christina Aguilera and Missy Elliott
59. ___ Amasova (Russian agent Triple X played by Barbara Bach)
62. Lao-___
63. "Give ___ Me" (Evanescence song)
66. Kate mate on '80s TV
67. * 2005 James Blunt hit
69. QB stat
70. Without coverage
71. Streaming set-top box
72. Guitarist Cline of Wilco
73. "Beth" band
74. Gaming console slated to come back in a "mini" version this year, briefly

DOWN
1. Iggy Azalea or Taylor Swift, once
2. Conductor with a Japanese music festival named for him
3. Recent hiree's excuse
4. Sport that features a face-off following each goal
5. Sting
6. Access, as a network
7. "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" singer Stone
8. Fish that becomes a talk show host if you stick an "R" inside it?
9. "Hey - I'm trying to concentrate!"
10. Lengthy letter
11. Connipation
12. "I'll have what she's having"
15. Coffee quantity repeated in the Ink Spots song "Java Jive"
17. "This ___ " (cleverly titled Melissa Etheridge album)
22. "___ Way You Want It" (Journey hit)
24. Rooftop extension
26. Two-time Australian prime minister Kevin
27. Supergroup composed of members of King Crimson, ELP, Yes, and the Buggles
29. "___ of Hearts" (Christina Perri song)
30. Song title words before "Laugh," "Knew," or "Fell"
31. "Little" ride in a Ronny & the Dayotas classic
32. ___ Amasova (Russian agent Triple X played by Barbara Bach)
33. Streaming set-top box
35. Digital keyboard whose name is also a direction in several foreign languages
36. Bohemian river
37. Chit
38. Surgery sites, for short
39. "Honky ___ " (Elton John song)
40. Battle of the Hedgerows city
41. Chose by chance
42. Tranquilizer source, sometimes
43. "This ___" (cleverly titled Melissa Etheridge album)
44. ___ Way You Want It" (Journey hit)
46. Red-hot on the court
47. Change of address...
48. Natural parkland
49. Herbal stimulant used in aromatherapy
50. Net figures
51. Ottoman official
52. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
53. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
54. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
55. Russian range
56. Tease
57. Mosquito-borne fever
58. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
59. ___ Belle dolls (punningly named Marie Osmond collection)
60. Straining device
61. "The ___ Return" (Pink Floyd antiwar song)
64. Stooge emission?
65. Player Polo?
68. Internet directory provider, for short
69. QB stat

©2017 | The meta for this puzzle is a music genre.