Hope Springs Eternal by Pete Muller and Mack Meller

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Ballet (British new wave band with the 1983 hit "True")
- 8 Prefix with European or Chinese
- 12 Lhasa
- 16 Pets slightly smaller than 12-Acrosses
- **17** Former attorney general with an apt surname
- 18 Spring's opposite
- 19 Co-creator and co-star of "Insecure"
- 20 Latin itself?
- 21 Scale start
- 22 Easy finish?
- **23** Org. that approved lab-grown chicken in 2022
- 24 Blanc (wine variety)
- 26 Poker table weakness
- 28 Farm features
- 30 Where to find Good Grief and Gross
- 34 First thing?
- 36 Lead-in to X, Y, or Z
- **37** Container associated with a famous poem by 33-Down
- **40** Animal often mistakenly believed to be blind
- 41 Possible response to "¿Hablas español?"
- 43 "Sailing" singer Christopher
- **45** Any of 12 popes with a devout-sounding name
- 46 Knocks on softly, as a door
- 47 Bubble gum brand word
- 48 Esteem
- **50** Swiss river at the start of an alphabetical list
- 51 City, card game, or rock band
- **52** Vessel that anagrams to a place where it might capsize
- 53 "Bewitched" witch
- 55 "Awkwardly stretching and yawning, it's always ___ in the morning" (song lyric from 2006)
- 56 Word with war or secret
- **57** Type of number that can range from 1 to 118
- **58** Former Yankee Martinez
- **59** "... won't ____ no tears, they all dried up yesterday" (lyric from a 2018 song)
- 60 Save for later, in a way
- 62 "Call Me ____" (Train song)
- 63 Rodents preyed upon by hawks
- 64 Lab containers
- 66 "Great shot!"
- 68 Midshipmen, e.g.
- 71 Word heard at recess
- 73 When Rome wasn't built?
- **78** Taylor Swift tour that crashed Ticketmaster
- 79 Fix, in a way
- 81 "You Give Love a ____" (Bon Jovi hit)
- 82 Give for free
- 83 Top-notch
- 84 Le Creuset offering
- 85 Novelist Ferber
- 86 Casting needs
- 87 Schuss off a cliff, say

DOWN

- 1 Played on a playground, perhaps
- 2 Part of UTEP
- 3 Church recess

The meta for this puzzle is a famous rock song.

- 4 Confidentiality contracts, briefly
- 5 Triangular snack bit
- 6 Banded quartz variety
- 7 "___ Me" (Bill Withers song)
- 8 Footnote note, briefly
- 9 Some California wines
- 10 AMA members
- 11 Farsighted one?
- **12** Where to find Chimborazo and Aconcagua
- 13 Lowly laborer
- 14 Wrap for a rani
- 15 Sesame starter?
- 23 Irreverent
- 25 Top banana
- 27 "Summertime Sadness" hitmaker Del Rey
- 29 " _ You" (Bebe Rexha hit)
- 30 Repercussions
- 31 Phrase repeated four times in T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
- 32 Natalie Portman and Rashida Jones, visà-vis Harvard
- 33 Ancient Greek poet
- 35 Back to back, in Lyon
- 37 Short end?
- **38** "One of Us" singer Joan
- 39 Symbols on a coach's chalkboard
- 41 Pickup truck, to Aussies

- 42 Bouncing off the walls?
- 44 Reach hastily, as judgment
- 49 Double-check for mistakes, perhaps
- 51 Breathalyzer fig.
- 53 Scruggs for whom a banjo-playing style is named
- 54 "Lift Me Up" singer, to fans
- **61** Seven Sisters school in the Hudson Valley
- **63** Renter of a 65-Down
- **64** Bike whose name sounds like a Bond girl reprised by Eva Green in 2006
- 65 Outdoor market unit
- **67** R&B singer with the 2004 #1 hit "Goodies"
- **68** Gospel singer Winans
- 69 One of J.Lo's exes
- 70 2017 Kendrick Lamar Grammy-winning album
- 72 Passing needs
- 74 "Breathe (2 AM)" singer Nalick
- **75** Fist bumps
- **76** Frenzied
- 77 Cooler manufacturer whose eponym is a mythical creature
- **80** Ending of some canine breed names
- 81 One-hundredth of a percent, in finance lingo