Solution to STILL AT IT

by Mark Halpin

Instructions to the last puzzle referred to half of the clues being affected by one of two alterations, which needed to be ignored to solve. One alteration had one word in 11 clues short by one letter; these words are indicated in clue explanations below. One diagonal in the finished grid, reading THE LAST RESORTS, described the alteration in another 11 clues: the final word needed to anagrammed (also indicated in the explanations below). Considering the initial letters of all altered clues ALL TOGETHER NOW yields the phrase SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS, referring to the fact that both diagonals name Sondheim shows either left incomplete or still being written.

A	C	C	U	S	E	D	A	D	A	M	A	N	T
G	L	O	O	E	T	E	L	E	P	A	T	H	E
G	E	L	C	A	P	S	R	F	N	I	E	C	E
R	R	D	T	G	F	I	O	R	E	L	L	O	T
I	G	L	O	O	S	G	S	O	A	F	I	S	H
E	Y	Y	B	I	G	N	E	S	S	L	E	I	S
V	I	C	E	N	T	E	T	T	Q	E	R	N	C
E	N	F	R	G	B	R	T	R	U	C	K	E	R
S	T	A	Y	M	E	G	A	H	I	T	K	T	O
B	O	Y	I	S	H	E	S	N	E	U	R	A	L
E	T	W	O	C	E	N	T	S	T	R	O	T	L
Z	O	R	R	O	S	E	O	R	I	E	N	T	S
O	T	A	U	N	T	I	N	G	V	S	E	O	A
S	L	Y	N	E	S	S	E	Y	E	B	R	O	W

Explanations

* = anagram; " " = homophone

ACROSS: 1. AC+C+USED; 6. [abeL] ADAM+ANT; 13. ATHLETE* holding P; 14. [battles/tablets] G+PLACES*; 16. [manY] NOTICE…EARLY initials; 18. F[I[OR+'ELLO; 19. [diapers/despair] I[GLOO(-m)]S; 20. O+A+FISH; 21. [hefT] BINGES*+S; 22. [evils/Levis] LE(-v)ISl 24. VI[CENT]E; 29. TRUC[K]E+R; 30. [marine/remain] ST[A]Y; 31. [timE] TIME* holding HAG reversed; 34. BO[Y+I]SH; 36. [thoughT] NEU(-t)RAL; 37. "too + sense"; 38. [words/sword] ZO[RR]O; 39. [notE] SIR NOTE*; 40. GIANT NUT*; 41. SOUNDLESSLY* minus LOUD; 42. [bowerY] E+BOWERY*

DOWN: 1. GIVES RAGE*; 2. [stripes/priests] CL+E+R+G+Y; 3. [demurE] CO[L+DL]Y; 4. SIGNAGE* holding O; 5. ENGINEERED* holding S and G; 7. [what/thaw] SOFT RED*; 8. A+NAP* holding E; 9. (-st)ATELIER; 10. [morals/molars] understaTE ETHnologists; 12. CORY* holding TOBE; 15. ONE TOTS TEARS*; 17. [stance/secant] SO NICE*; 22. CRUELEST*; 23. [tooL] OLD SCRALWLS* - d; 25. begIN TO TOlerate; 26. [quitE] IVE QUITE*; 27. [pea/ape] "fey +ray"; 28. BE[HE]STS; 32. [icons/coins] "crone + er"; 33. [inK] habiTAT TO Open; 34. BrEeZyOuSt; 35. ONES* holding C