AUTOTUNE

Crossword grid (█ = black square):

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E S P █ S T D █ █ █ █ █ A D R A G
A T O █ S L U R P █ █ █ D W A D E
T A M █ I S A B E L A █ F E M U R
I M P O S E T A X E S █ E L S E █
T I E I N █ E N A M E L █ █ █ █ █
U N I T O F V O L U M E █ S D S U
P A I N █ I E R █ M I N █ O A T S
█ █ █ █ B O S N I A █ S U N D A E
E L K █ T H I G H B O N E █ E R R
M A R G O T █ H A R A S S █ █ █ █
I T A L █ A M A █ R E M █ C A P E
L E V Y █ C A B I N G E T A W A Y
█ █ █ █ █ C R O N U T █ B L A S E
C O O L █ D E S S E R T D I S H █
L O D G E █ M L B M V P S █ T K O
T R I E S █ O A S E S █ █ █ E E L
E D E N S █ D S L █ █ █ █ █ D Y E
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matching word	sound-alike auto	index letter	result
LEVY	CHEVY/CHEVROLET	2 of 9	H
CORD	FORD	2 of 4	O
FEMUR	BEAMER/BMW	3 of 3	W
LODGE	DODGE	1 of 5 or 3 of 5	D
SUNDAE	HYUNDAI	2 of 7	Y
AUDI	<—————		HOWDY

The first step was that you were looking for matching, shorter grid entries for the 5 theme entries. Which entries were the theme entries? Well they were the longest across entries, plus the central one. If you're new to metas, take note, because these are really common placements for theme entries. But even if you didn't notice the placement of these entries, the added numbers in parentheses in the clues for these words should've also let you know that they were important.

So, how did you know which entries were matching? Well, they were exact synonyms! IMPOSE TAXES corresponded to LEVY, UNIT OF VOLUME corresponded to CORD (this one was tricky, but thinking about a cord of wood might've helped), and each of the other theme entries also had a direct synonym just like it.

Once you had these 5 shorter theme entries, you needed to take a look at the title. "Autotune" could be parsed into "auto" (cars) and "tune" (sounds), so you were looking for words that sound like cars - and indeed that's exactly what you had. LEVY rhymes with CHEVY, CORD rhymes with FORD, FEMUR rhymes with BEAMER, LODGE rhymes with DODGE, and SUNDAE rhymes with HYUNDAI (or it does in the American commercials, sorry for the mixup here international folks!).

Once you had the car brands, then you could finally use the numbers in parentheses. Those told you how many letters were in the car brand (second number), and which of those letters you needed to select (first number). So 2/9 was the 2nd out of 9 letters in CHEVROLET (H), 2/4 was the second out of 4 letters in FORD (O), and so on. Those letters spelled out HOWDY, which rhymes with the 4-letter car brand **AUDI**, which is indeed our meta answer.