Hello! This document describes and provides examples of some of the options available in the *Mesostic* generator for the *Platonic Music Engine.* Not every combination of options will be shown but hopefully enough to get the idea across.

Before the options you have to set the *user input, source text,* and the *spine.* The user input becomes the seed for the pseudo random number generator that makes various decisions throughout this mesostic generator and the PME in general. The source text determines what text will be "written through" and right now is limited to public domain works from Project Gutenberg as well as texts generated at random by the PME. The spine is the series of letters that the program will search for in the source text to form a mesostic.

It's worth noting that the nature of the PME is that while users can rerun the program as many times as they want changing the settings every time, they are not allowed by the program itself to change the results directly. This means that the program produces a final result every time and the random decisions are often the kinds of things that humans would otherwise decide for themselves.

rule: *0%, 50%, 100%* – Set which rule to use for wing words. The "100%" rule means that between any two words with spine letters ("mesowords") you cannot have either letter. The "50%" rule states that between any two mesowords you cannot have the second letter. The "0%" rule allows for either letter to occur between mesowords.

word_rule: *random, linear* – "random" means that mesowords are chosen at random while the "linear" option indicates that mesowords are used in the order that they appear.

wing_rule: *surrounding, neither* – The "surrounding" option randomly removes words from the ends of the possible wing words. Cage would make this decision himself but here we randomize it. The "neither" option* means that all the allowable wing words will be used. Cage limited the number of characters on either side of the mesoword to 45. This software limits it to 11 words which generally produces a similar result. Later on in the program the 45 character limit is enforced.

punctuation_rule: *yes, no* – "Yes" means that punctuation marks mark where wing words end. The "no" option allow punctuation marks to occur within wing words.

bold: *yes, no* – The "yes" option will print the spine letters in bold. The "no" option does not.

style: *merce, cantos, regular* – The "merce" option provides a rough simulation of the typographical manipulations used in *62 Mesostics re: Merce Cunningham.* The "cantos" option recreates the style Cage used in his *Writing Through the Cantos.* "Regular" means we are to use the standard style.

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*This is an older name based on a previous version. It will be changed to "all" in the next version.

The following pages are actual examples of mesostics using combinations of the previous rules. The rules used, in order, are:

1. 100% (rule), linear (word rule), neither (wing rule), yes (punctuation rule), no (bold), regular (style)

2. 50%, random, surrounding, yes, yes, regular

3. 0%, linear, neither, no, yes, regular

4. 100%, linear, neither, yes, no, merce

5. 100%, linear, neither, yes, yes, cantos

(For Taffy the cat)

Poem

Text Mesostic

inspired by John Cage
The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe
spine = "Lenore"

David Bellows
Platonic Music Engine

nearLy napping,
camE a
tappiNg,
as Of
gently Rapping,
at my chambEr door.

onLy this and nothing
morE."
distiNctly i remember it was
ember wrOught its
eageRly i
wishEd

morrow;–vainLy
for thE lost
aNd
whOm the angels name
and the silken sad unceRtain
of Each

Poem

Text Mesostic

inspired by John Cage
The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe
spine = "Lenore"

David Bellows
Platonic Music Engine

Lost
mor**E**.
ghastly grim a**N**d
s**O**ul
bi**R**d
m**E**

night**L**y
strong**E**r;
sitti**N**g
v**O**lume
me t**R**uly,
th**E**

mere**L**y
take thy b**E**ak
o**N**ly
thy s**O**ul
hea**R**d
li**E**s

(For Taffy the cat)

Poem

Text Mesostic

inspired by John Cage

The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe

spine = "Lenore"

David Bellows

Platonic Music Engine

of forgotten lore–while i nodded, near**L**y napping, suddenly there came a

cam**E** a tapping,as of some one gently

tappi**N**g,as of some one gently rapping,

Of some one gently rapping, rapping at my

Rapping, rapping at my chamber door."'tis some

chamb**E**r door."'tis some visitor," i
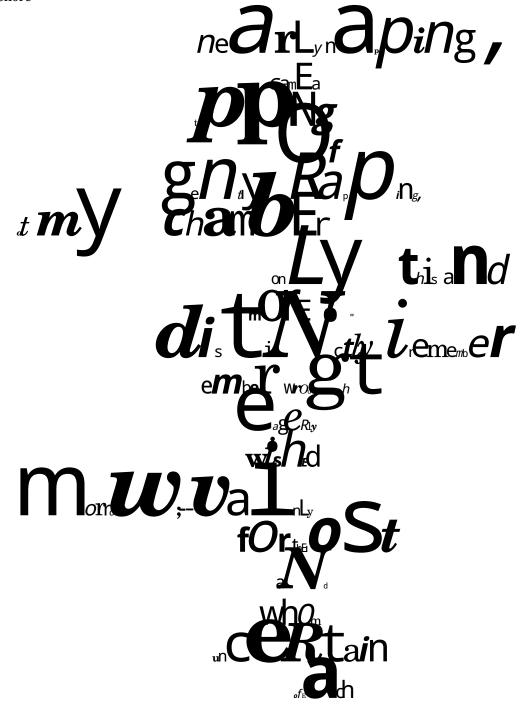

on**L**y this and nothing more."ah,

mor**E**."ah, distinctly i remember it was in

disti**N**ctly i remember it was in the bleak

and each separate dying ember wr**O**ught its ghost upon the floor.eagerly i

eage**R**ly i wished the morrow;–vainly i had

wish**E**d the morrow;–vainly i had sought to

morrow;–vain**L**y i had sought to borrow

surcease of sorrow–sorrow for th**E** lost lenore–for the rare and

a**N**d radiant maiden whom the angels name

wh**O**m the angels name lenore–

for evermore.and the silken sad unce**R**tain rustling of each purple curtain

Each purple curtainthrilled me–filled

Poem

Text Mesostic

David Bellows
Platonic Music Engine

nearLy aping,

camEa
pp NG
Of
gny Rap ng,
t mY en tl
chambEr
on Ly tHis and
di t N cthy i rememer
s i
emb Wro h
e m e
age Rly
wishd
mom w;-val nLy
fOr tbEi oSt
N d
a
whom
uncERtain
of E a h

(For Taffy the cat)

Poem

Text Mesostic

inspired by John Cage   David Bellows

The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe   Platonic Music Engine

spine = "Lenore"

nearLy napping camE a tappiNg as Of gently Rapping at my chambEr door
onLy this and nothing morE" distiNctly i remember it was ember wrOught its eageRly i wishEd
morrowvainLy for thE lost aNd whOm the angels name and the silken sad unceRtain of Each