

Chanter's Corner

Question:

What in the world is Will Moyer doing with his phone at the Chanter's Stand during Liturgy? Checking his email?

Answer:

No, he's using Digital Chant Stand from AGES Initiatives, a nonprofit organization he helped Fr. Seraphim Dedes found in 2011. As a matter of fact, *all* of our chanters and priests at Annunciation use the print version of liturgical services provided by AGES during every Sunday and Feast Day Orthros.

The Story:

Fr. Seraphim is the Music Director at St. Nektarios in Charlotte. After meeting with Will to teach him the basics of Byzantine chant in late 2011, Fr. Seraphim shared an idea to expand his "eMatins" webpage—a popular resource for many chanters and clergy—into a software system giving users access to complete liturgical services on their mobile devices and computers—including full-text and music—anytime, anywhere.

As a software entrepreneur with experience in start-up technology companies, Will worked with Fr. Seraphim to found AGES Initiatives, a 501(c)(3) corporation, and to form a team of developers who could help build the technology. The result was Digital Chant Stand, a Web application that allows Will and thousands of other chanters and church singers around the globe—currently in six countries—to practice and perform the beautiful Byzantine hymnology of our Church services.

Will is currently serving as the Board President of AGES Initiatives for 2017-18. If you are interested in supporting AGES with your tax-deductible donations, you may write a check directly to **AGES Initiatives, 5108 Kuykendall Road, Charlotte, NC 28270**, or to **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church** and specify "**AGES donation**" in the memo line.

Your gift to AGES Initiatives will support ongoing translation, composition, digital distribution of texts and music, website development, and workshops that make it possible for people in Orthodox churches throughout the country to serve, sing, and follow along.

The screenshot displays the Digital Chant Stand software interface. On the left, a text window shows the lyrics of a hymn in English and Greek, along with instructions for performance. The main area on the right features a musical score for the hymn, titled "Sticheron 1. Mode 3. Heirmologic. Ga=F." The score is written in a single system with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. Israel, my first-born son, committed two evils: he forsook Me, the fountain of living water, and he hewed for himself a broken cistern. He had Me crucified onto a cross, and demanded Barabbas instead and had Him released. Heaven was amazed at this, and the sun hid its rays. You, O Israel, were not ashamed, on the contrary you delivered Me to death. O holy Father, forgive them, for they know not what they have done." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (C, F, D).