

KARAPLAYER

Quick Start Guide

From first launch to a ready-to-run venue

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For	Presenters setting up a venue and first show
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A practical guide for setting up and running a karaoke show with confidence.

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1. Before you begin

This guide takes a new installation through the minimum setup required for a real venue. Complete the sections in order before relying on KaraPlayer at a live show.

Requirement	What to prepare
Windows computer	A Windows x64 computer with the .NET 8 Desktop Runtime and a dependable power supply.
Karaoke media	MP3+G pairs, ZIP karaoke files, MP4 karaoke videos, or a mixture. Keep the collection in a stable folder or dedicated drive.
Audio	Connect and test the intended karaoke and fill-music outputs before guests arrive.
Audience display	Connect the second screen/projector and set Windows to Extend these displays.
Online requests	Have internet access and the venue's online request setup details available.

Important: Back up the KaraPlayer database before moving an existing installation or making major library/database changes. FFmpeg is bundled with the installer and does not need a separate installation.

2. Create or select the venue

KaraPlayer organises shows, online request settings, blocked requesters, and other operational data by venue.

1. Start KaraPlayer. On the venue selection window, choose an existing venue or select Add New Venue.
2. Enter a clear venue name that staff will recognise, then create and select it.
3. KaraPlayer starts a new show for the selected venue.
4. Open Venue Management to confirm the venue appears. The list refreshes whenever the tab is selected.
5. Use Venue Management to correct the name, add notes, or archive a venue that is no longer used. Do not create near-duplicate spellings for the same place.

Venue rule: Use one venue record per real venue. Venue-specific online settings and requester blocks depend on the correct venue being selected.

3. Set up the karaoke library

Choose the library location

6. Open the Library tab.
7. Choose or browse to the top-level folder/drive containing the karaoke collection.
8. Keep MP3 and CDG partners together and identically named apart from the extension. ZIP files can remain zipped when supported by the import workflow.
9. Start the library scan and allow it to finish. Avoid unplugging the drive or closing KaraPlayer during the scan.
10. Review the reported track count and any validation messages. Correct missing partners or inaccessible paths before the show.

After the scan

- Use Live search to confirm several known artists and titles can be found.
- Import downloaded tracks through KaraPlayer so the library and songbook remain consistent.
- Rebuild the master songbook after substantial library changes.
- Do not move or rename the media folder after scanning unless you plan to rescan.

4. Configure fill music

Fill music covers the gap between karaoke performances. It uses its own folder, queue, playback controls, and optional automation.

11. Open Fill Music and choose the folder containing ordinary music tracks.
12. Allow KaraPlayer to scan the folder, then build or load the desired playlist/live queue.
13. Select the correct fill-music audio output in Settings if it differs from the karaoke output.
14. Test manual Play, Pause, Skip, and volume behavior.
15. Enable automatic fill start only if you want KaraPlayer to start fill music between singers.
16. Review Pause during karaoke and the fill-to-karaoke transition options. Keep dependent controls off when automatic fill is not required.

Recommended sound check: Test one complete transition from fill music into karaoke and one transition back to fill music. Confirm the fill fades cleanly and the karaoke vocal starts after the intended gap.

5. Promote and configure KaraPlayer Online

Why hosts use online songbooks and requests

KaraPlayer Online turns the host's catalogue into a venue-friendly digital songbook. Guests scan a QR code, browse on their own phones, and send requests directly to the presenter. It gives customers a modern, easy way to join in while helping the host run a calmer, better organised show.

- No printed books to carry, reprint, or replace: the online songbook can reflect the current karaoke library.
- A venue QR code gives every table immediate access without asking the host for a book or typing a long web address.
- Guests can search by artist or title privately, which encourages hesitant singers to explore and take part.
- Requests arrive clearly in KaraPlayer, reducing handwriting problems, repeated trips to the booth, and interruptions while the host is mixing or presenting.
- Venue-specific controls, queue limits, opening schedules, and requester blocking help the presenter stay in control.
- The audience-screen QR code keeps the service visible throughout the night and promotes more requests and repeat engagement.

Host benefit: Present the QR code early and mention that the songbook is live on guests' phones. The easier it is to browse and request, the more likely people are to participate and stay engaged with the show.

Configure online requests

Online requests are venue-specific. Complete setup while the intended venue is active.

17. Open Online Requests and complete/verify the venue activation or venue-code setup shown by KaraPlayer.
18. Open online requests and use the displayed QR code or request link on a phone that is not signed into the presenter computer.
19. Submit a test request and confirm it appears automatically in the Online Requests tab.
20. Set the per-requester queue cap, or enable Unlimited only when that is genuinely intended.

21. Review the call/notification percentage and scheduled opening options.
22. Test adding the request to the queue, matching an existing singer, and applying starting key/tempo settings if needed.
23. Close online requests until the venue is ready to accept real submissions.
 - Blocking is venue-specific: a blocked requester can still browse but is directed to see the presenter.
 - Scheduled openings remain associated with the venue.
 - A singer may submit more requests after singing until the configured cap is reached again.

6. Prepare the Audience Screen

24. Connect the second display and set Windows display mode to Extend.
25. Open Audience Screen settings and choose the background, logo, message, QR-code, ticker position, colours, size, and speed.
26. Ensure Show ticker is enabled if the next singer should scroll across the audience and mini-player displays.
27. Open the Audience Screen and confirm it appears on the intended monitor/projector.
28. Queue a singer with a song and confirm the ticker shows the next callable singer.

7. Run the essential Live-tab workflow

Live area	Essential use
Live search	Search the local library by artist, title, or track details, then use the selected result in the singer workflow.
Add a Singer	Create/select a singer, choose a song or placeholder, set starting key/tempo, and add the entry to the queue.
Singer queue	Select the next entry; use Move Up, Move Down, Remove, Fair Rotation, drag/drop, or the Delete key as appropriate.
Edit Singer / Audio	Correct the queued singer/song and adjust starting audio settings before playback.
Call next	Use the configured Ask/Auto/Off behavior. The presenter-controlled Call Next Singer button is the intentional manual override.

Live area	Essential use
Playback	Use Play, Pause, Restart, Stop, and the position control. Never start a placeholder with no song.
Current performance	Adjust key and tempo during playback and monitor the active singer/song.
Audience controls	Open/close the audience display, show next singer or a custom message, and clear the main audience content when required.

Queue safety: A no-song placeholder cannot be started or called. Assign a song first using Edit Singer / Audio or Add a Singer.

8. Pre-show checklist

- Correct venue selected and shown in the KaraPlayer title bar.
- Karaoke library connected; several known searches tested.
- Karaoke and fill-music audio outputs tested through the real sound system.
- Audience screen/projector opened on the correct display; ticker and QR code checked.
- Fill playlist loaded and both transition directions tested.
- Online requests tested from a phone, then opened or scheduled as intended.
- Call-next mode and notification percentage confirmed.
- Database backup available; Windows power-saving and disruptive notifications disabled for the show.

Ready: Keep the Live tab open during the show. Use the management tabs for corrections, but return to Live before starting or finishing performances.