

KARAPLAYER

User Guide

Complete presenter and venue operations

Version	4.0.38
For	Karaoke presenters, operators, and venue administrators
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A practical guide for setting up and running a karaoke show with confidence.

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1. KaraPlayer overview

KaraPlayer is a Windows presenter application for running karaoke shows. It combines a searchable track library, singer queue, MP3+G and MP4 playback, fill music, audience output, singer/repertoire records, venue-specific settings, and online requests.

Core operating principle

The Live tab is the control centre during a show. Management tabs prepare or correct data; queue, call-next, playback, and fill behavior should remain under KaraPlayer's established controls rather than being duplicated manually.

Area	Purpose
Live	Search, queue, call singers, control playback, adjust the current performance, and control audience messaging.
Fill Music	Choose tracks/playlists and control or automate music between singers.
Online Requests	Receive, review, match, block, limit, schedule, and add phone requests.
Audience Screen	Configure the public display, ticker, QR code, backgrounds, messages, and display behavior.
Repertoire Management	Maintain each singer's known songs and preferred versions.
Singer Management	Edit names/preferences/notes, merge duplicates, and review singer activity.
Songbook / Library	Scan media, manage named songbooks, export/upload catalogues, and validate tracks.
Venue Management	Review, rename, annotate, archive, and restore venues.
Settings	Configure audio, theme, call-next behavior, backup/restore, reset, and related options.

2. Installation and first launch

System requirements

- Windows x64 computer and .NET 8 Desktop Runtime.
- Stable access to the karaoke and fill-music folders/drives.
- Windows Media Player components available for MP4 video display.
- A second Windows display for the audience output is strongly recommended.
- Internet access is required for online request functions.

The official 4.0.38 installer bundles the Windows x64 FFmpeg runtime used to create lossless compatibility copies of fragmented MP4 files. Users should not install FFmpeg separately.

Display fitting: KaraPlayer fits its main screens and Add Singer window to the usable Windows working area, allowing for the taskbar. All main tabs remain available across the top; the four live-use tabs receive larger labels where the screen width permits.

First launch sequence

1. Install KaraPlayer using the Windows x64 installer. Close KaraPlayer before installing an update over an existing version.
2. Start KaraPlayer and select or create the venue.
3. Confirm the main window title identifies the intended venue.
4. Configure the library, audio outputs, fill music, audience display, and online requests before the first live show.

3. Venues and shows

A venue is the long-lived location record. A show is the current operating session at that venue. Queue entries belong to the active show, while many online and presenter settings are venue-specific.

Creating and selecting a venue

5. Use Add New Venue on the venue selection window.
6. Enter the venue's stable public/operational name and create it.
7. Select it to start the show. Venue Management refreshes after creation and whenever its tab is selected.

Venue Management

- Search active or archived venues.
- Edit the venue name and notes.
- Archive an unused venue without destroying its historical data.
- Restore an archived venue when it becomes active again.
- Use one canonical record per real venue; avoid duplicate spellings.

4. Library and songbooks

Supported karaoke media

- MP3+G: a matched MP3 audio file and CDG graphics file.
- ZIP karaoke packages containing supported media.
- MP4 karaoke video files.
- Downloaded/loose tracks imported through KaraPlayer.

Scanning the library

8. Connect the library drive and choose the top-level library folder.
9. Start the scan and allow it to complete without disconnecting the media.
10. Review the count and validation results.
11. Test representative searches from Live before the show.
12. Rescan after moving, adding, or removing substantial media collections.

Songbooks

- Rebuild the master songbook after library changes.
- Create named songbooks for subsets or venue-specific catalogues.
- Export CSV when a spreadsheet catalogue is needed.
- Use the correct local songbook when generating or uploading an online songbook.
- Do not distribute personal/developer songbook data in installers or source packages.

5. Singers and repertoire

Singer Management

Singer Management stores long-lived singer identity and preferences. Click any grid heading to sort ascending; click it again to sort descending. Sorting is available for ID, Singer, Preference, Songs, and Sung and is retained through searches/refreshes.

- Edit the display name, manufacturer preference, preference mode, and notes.
- Merge duplicate singer records only after reviewing the merge preview.
- Delete only when the consequences for related repertoire/history are understood.

Repertoire

Repertoire records songs a singer knows, including alternative track versions and a preferred version. Use Repertoire Management for bulk review and the singer workflow when choosing a song for a particular performer.

Keep singer in queue

- A kept singer has one main queue position and a personal song subqueue.
- Adding another song places it at the end of that singer's song queue.
- After completion, the performed song is removed and the next song becomes current.
- If interrupted, the current song returns to the top of the singer's queue.
- Reordering the singer's song queue updates the main queue display.

6. Live queue and presenter workflow

Adding a singer

13. Search the library or choose Add a Singer.
14. Select an existing singer or create a new singer.
15. Choose a song from the songbook/library or repertoire, or deliberately create a no-song placeholder.
16. Set starting key and tempo where required.
17. Confirm the queue addition and check its position on Live.

Queue Tools

Control	Behavior
Move Up / Move Down	Moves the selected queue entry without silently bypassing the configured call-next behavior.
Remove	Removes the selected queue entry after the appropriate confirmation.
Fair Rotation	Applies the established rotation routine to improve singer fairness.
Add a Singer	Opens the singer-based queue workflow.
Edit Singer / Audio	Edits the selected queue entry, song, singer, and starting audio settings.
Drag rows	Reorders queue entries directly. The same call-next gates still apply.
Delete key	Provides the queue removal shortcut.
Double-click	Opens the selected entry for editing.

Placeholders

Safety rule: A no-song placeholder is never callable or playable and is not shown as the next singer. Assign a song before starting it.

Call next

- Ask: KaraPlayer prompts before automatic call-next actions.
- Auto: eligible automatic transitions can call the next singer.
- Off: automatic call-next behavior is disabled.
- Call Next Singer is the intentional presenter-controlled manual override.
- Phone notifications respect the configured trigger percentage and should not buzz repeatedly after notification.

7. Karaoke playback and audio

Playback controls

- Play starts the selected/loaded performance.
- Pause suspends audio and graphics/video together.
- Restart returns the current performance to the beginning.
- Stop ends playback through the established completion/queue workflow.
- The position control seeks the current MP3+G or MP4 performance.

Key and tempo

Starting key and tempo can be saved when adding/editing a queued song. Current Performance controls can adjust them during playback. Confirmations should reflect the values being applied.

MP4 playback

KaraPlayer displays muted MP4 video through Windows Media Player while processed audio is played through NAudio/SoundTouch. Video is synchronised to the rendered audio-device clock rather than the decoder's read-ahead position.

- Fragmented MP4 files are detected and remuxed to a lossless compatibility cache using bundled FFmpeg.
- The cache is disposable and is cleaned by age/size rules.
- The temporary MP4 Compatibility Diagnostic reports whether the original, a new remux, or a cached remux is used.
- If a file is missing or FFmpeg cannot run, KaraPlayer reports the compatibility decision instead of silently guessing.

8. Fill music

Folder and playlist

18. Choose and scan the fill-music folder.
19. Create/load a saved playlist or arrange the live fill queue.
20. Use the playlist editor to reorder, add, and remove tracks.
21. Select the fill-music audio device and test manual output.

Automation and transitions

- Automatic fill starts only when enabled.
- Dependent fill options are relevant only when their parent automation option is active.
- Fill-to-karaoke normally uses a fill fade followed by approximately one second of silence before karaoke audio.
- Karaoke-to-fill does not require the one-second gap and may begin based on the detected karaoke-audio boundary while graphics finish naturally.
- MP3+G graphics must not be stopped merely because audio silence is detected.

9. Audience Screen and mini-player

Display setup

22. Set Windows to Extend displays.
23. Open the Audience Screen from KaraPlayer and confirm the correct monitor.
24. Configure idle background, text, logo/graphic, media fit, QR code, and ticker settings.
25. Use the Live audience controls to show the next singer, show a saved/custom message, or clear the main display.

Ticker

- The ticker shows the next callable singer with a song.
- It appears on both the audience display and mini-player when Show ticker is enabled.
- Position, size, speed, foreground, and background are configurable.
- Starting MP4 playback preserves the ticker; only an intentional presenter clear should blank it.
- Literal ampersands in singer/song text are displayed rather than treated as keyboard mnemonics.

10. Online requests

A better guest experience and a smoother show

KaraPlayer Online is more than a request form. It is a live, phone-friendly songbook that helps a karaoke business look professional, makes the catalogue easier to explore, and creates a direct path from browsing to joining the queue.

Feature	Benefit to the host and venue
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Feature	Benefit to the host and venue
Online songbook	Keeps the catalogue accessible on guests' phones and avoids the cost, weight, damage, and constant reprinting of paper books.
Venue QR code	Lets guests open the correct venue songbook in seconds from tables, posters, screens, or the audience display.
Online requests	Sends readable requests into the presenter workflow, reducing booth interruptions and errors caused by handwritten slips.
Search and discovery	Helps guests find songs by artist or title at their own pace, encouraging more people to participate.
Audience visibility	Keeps the QR code and service visible during the show, supporting more engagement and repeat requests.
Presenter controls	Venue-specific opening times, limits, notifications, and blocks preserve the host's control of the night.

Selling the experience: Describe the QR code as the venue's live karaoke songbook: scan, search, and request from your phone. It is a simple message for guests and a visible upgrade for venues considering a regular karaoke service.

Venue setup and opening

26. Select the correct venue and complete the online activation/venue-code workflow.
27. Choose manual opening or configure the venue's scheduled opening.
28. Display the QR code/link and test with a phone.
29. Confirm new requests appear and the tab count/flash updates.

Processing requests

- Match the requester to an existing singer where appropriate.
- Search the local library and matched singer's repertoire.
- Apply starting key/tempo and add the request through the existing queue workflow.
- When a kept singer already has a placeholder/main entry, assign or append the song instead of creating a duplicate main queue entry.

Limits, blocking, and notifications

- Queue caps are requester- and venue-aware; Unlimited disables the limit input.
- Blocked requesters see a holding message directing them to the presenter but can still browse the songbook.
- Blocks apply only to the venue where they were created.
- Phone call-now notifications apply only to appropriate online/phone singers and respect the configured percentage.

11. Management and settings

Area	Important controls
Audio Output	Select karaoke and fill outputs; apply changes carefully during live playback.
Theme	Choose light/dark or configured theme behavior; new dialogs and panels follow KaraPlayer styling.
Call Next	Choose Ask/Auto/Off and notification trigger percentage.
Audience	Background, text contrast, media fit, QR code, ticker visibility/position/size/speed/colours.
Backup / Restore	Create and restore operational backups before risky data work.
Factory Reset	Use only with a clear understanding of what local settings/data will be removed.
Diagnostics	Open diagnostics and locate crash/log information for support.

12. Backup, diagnostics, and recovery

Backups

- Back up before database migrations, large imports, singer merges, or library restructuring.
- Keep a known-good copy away from the active computer/drive.
- Do not restore over a running show.

Diagnostics

KaraPlayer records recent events and writes crash reports. When reporting a fault, provide the application version, steps immediately before the fault, the affected media filename, and the newest diagnostic/crash file.

Safe recovery

30. Stop playback and record what was happening.
31. Close KaraPlayer normally if possible.
32. Copy the newest diagnostics before restarting if the failure may recur.
33. Back up the database before any manual repair or restore.
34. Restart, reproduce only when safe, and report exact steps.

13. Troubleshooting

Symptom	Checks
Track not found	Reconnect the library drive; verify the path; rescan if files moved.
MP3+G audio but no graphics	Confirm the MP3 and CDG names match and both files are accessible.
Problem MP4	Read the compatibility diagnostic; confirm the bundled FFmpeg files remain beside KaraPlayer; retry after clearing only the disposable MP4 cache if instructed.
No fill music	Check folder/playlist, output device, volume, parent automation option, and whether the live queue contains tracks.
Ticker blank	Enable Show ticker and apply settings; ensure the queue contains a callable singer with a song; reopen/refresh the audience display.
Venue missing	Select Venue Management again to refresh; clear search; include archived venues; confirm creation completed.
Online request missing	Confirm correct venue, online opening status, internet access, auto-check state, requester cap/block, and phone submission status.
No audience output	Use Windows Extend mode, reopen the audience screen, and verify the secondary display is connected.

Symptom	Checks
Installer does not update	Close KaraPlayer, use the current versioned installer, and retain the same installation directory/AppId.

Appendix A. File locations

Item	Location / notes
Database	%LOCALAPPDATA%\KaraPlayer\KaraPlayer.db
MP4 cache	%LOCALAPPDATA%\KaraPlayer\Mp4CompatibilityCache
Bundled FFmpeg	Installed beside KaraPlayer.exe with its required DLLs.
Diagnostics	KaraPlayer's local application-data area; use the Diagnostics controls to identify the newest report.
Source project	KaraPlayer.vbproj and VB source files at the project root in source-only handovers.

Appendix B. Operational checklists

Before doors open

- Correct venue/show active.
- Library connected and searchable.
- Audio outputs and levels tested.
- Audience display and ticker visible.
- Fill queue loaded and transitions tested.
- Online requests tested and opened/scheduled.
- Call-next mode confirmed.
- Backup available.

At the end of the show

- Stop karaoke and fill playback cleanly.
- Close online requests if they should not remain open.
- Close the audience screen.
- Allow pending saves/uploads to finish.
- Create a backup after significant singer/repertoire changes.
- Close KaraPlayer normally before disconnecting library/audio drives.