

KARMA KARAOKE INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

Karma is a simplified **karaoke management** system for hosting karaoke shows. It can be used for regular DJ shows, but is designed from the ground up specifically for karaoke. Karma's karaoke features are not "add-ons", but are all built into one product that requires no additional software or plugins.

- **Simplified Search** - If you want to search for a song in Karma, just start typing. That's right, there's no need to take the time to grab your mouse and navigate to the search box. Once you begin to type, the search box will automatically have the focus. After you're done typing, simply hit the enter key on the keyboard. If you typed more than one word (or part of a word), it searches to make sure all of the words (or word fragments) you typed exist in either the artist or title. For example, let's say I want to find the song "Stone In Love" by the band "Journey". In Karma, I could simply type "jour ston" and hit enter. Even though I have well over 40,000 songs to search, Journey's "Stone In Love" is the only song that contains both the fragments "jour" and "ston" across title and artist.

- **Single Screen** - Karma is designed into a single screen that never has to lose focus during your show. This completely relieves the KJ from ever having to worry about clicking on the "right" window to give it focus before typing. Karma has a "panel" design so that most of the major functions needed during a show will always be visible. Areas of the screen are adjustable in a way that nothing ever covers up anything else. There are other screens that come up separately, but they are screens that are designed either for quick use or for use **not** during your show (like setting up which folders contain your music, which you would do in advance of your show).

- **Built-in "on-the-fly" CDG Timing Control** - How many times have you watched a karaoke song play and the lyrics are slightly out of synch with the music. Unlike CDG plugins for other products that either have no timing setting or the setting is buried many levels deep in a settings window, Karma's CDG synch control is available on screen at all times.

- **Universal Keyboard Control** - Although on-screen controls make it simple to quickly figure out how to use a program by clicking on a labeled button with the mouse, most seasoned KJs like the ability to simply lean over the keyboard and have preset keys for volume, pitch control, CDG timing, and Song Play. Karma makes these available, and purposely locks them to pre-assigned keys which enables any KJ familiar with Karma to take over for another KJ using Karma and not have to worry that the keys have all been reassigned.

Trial version limitations - Until the program is activated with a valid license, you are limited to 3 singers in the rotation and 3 entries in the playlist. There is no time limit on using the program in trial mode and everything else is fully functional.

Getting Started

The very first thing you need to do after running Karma for the first time is to tell Karma where all of your music is located and sort it into categories. Click the "Menu" button on the upper left of the screen. Then click the "Media" icon. This is where you tell Karma where your music is located, setup categories, and update your database after you've made changes to your music collection. The first thing to understand is Categories. Sorting your music into different categories enables viewing only certain categories at once which makes it easy when you want to pick out a DJ dance song, but don't want to accidentally choose a karaoke version instead. Karma starts you off with two default categories (that can't be removed) called "Karaoke" and "DJ Music", and you have the option to add additional categories of your own as well. You will assign each music folder to a category. You can assign more than one folder to the same category, but most people keep different types of music in different folders, for example you might have a folder of music for "Dance Music" or "Christmas Karaoke". If you want to be able to view these separate music folders separately in Karma, they will each need their own category. You need to setup all of your categories first because when you add a folder, you have to pick a category and if you haven't added it yet, it won't be there as a choice. If you go to add a folder and realize you forgot to setup a category for it, just click cancel, setup a new category, then go back and add the folder, assigning it to that category.

Once you've setup your categories, then you can start adding folders. Click the "Add" button to add a folder. When adding a folder, you click the browse button to locate the folder, choose whether or not to read the sub folders (all the folders within that folder), choose the title format (which is how your music files are titled and this is very important if you want your songs to appear correctly in Karma), choose the category, and click OK. Once you've added all of your music folders, you can then click the "Update Database" button and Karma will read all of the songs in all of the folders you've added and create the database of your music collection. Updating can take anywhere from a few seconds to many minutes and it all depends on how many songs you have and the speed of your computer. The more songs you have, the longer it will take.

After updating and building the database, the media window will close, and take you back to the main screen, and you can then browse the music listed right under the "Media" title bar. You can scroll the list or you can search for song.

Also, take the time to read the "Tips & Tricks" section of this help file. There is some very important information that will help prevent problems.

Audio / Video Setup

Most computers have a single audio output, but if you have multiple sound devices, you need to pick the one you're going to be using Karma through and set that as your default audio device in windows. This is done through Windows control panel. Go to Windows control panel, click "Hardware and Sound", then click "Sound". The device with the green check mark is the default device. To change the default device, right-click the device you want to be the default. Karma initializes the sound device upon startup so get this setup before launching Karma.

Although you can run a karaoke show from a single screen, it's best to have a separate display solely for displaying the lyrics to the singer. You need to first have the secondary display setup properly in windows before launching Karma. We've provided information on our web site for doing just this at http://www.Karaosoft.com/Info_PCDJs.aspx#dualscreendisplay . Once setup and working, launch Karma and then check the Vid2 checkbox in the lower right of the Karma main screen to turn on the secondary lyrics display. Get this setup and on before starting your show.

Searching

Searching for a specific song in Karma couldn't be any easier. Just start typing. There's nothing to click before typing. As you type, you'll see the text you're typing right above the media list. You only need to type enough letters to narrow your search from all of the other titles. You can enter fragments of words and the words don't have to be the beginning words you're searching for. For example, if you wanted to search for the song "My Way" by "Frank Sinatra", you could type "sinat way" or "my frank" or "ank sin way". As long as the fragments you type exist somewhere in the Title, Artist, or DiscID, the song will be returned in the results. Our testers have come up with a little game of "how can you find this song using the fewest letters?". After using Karma for a few weeks and doing some shows, you'll find yourself becoming a wiz at figuring out the fastest way to find a song using the fewest word fragments possible.

There are three buttons to the right of the search box labeled "T", "A", and "D" which are for searching only the Title, Artist, or DiscID fields. By default, Karma searches your search text across all fields and usually will narrow down your search sufficiently, but there are times where these buttons can come in handy. For example, if I wanted to see all the songs by the band "Journey", and typed "journey" into the search box and hit enter, I'd also be shown all kinds of songs that have the word "journey" in their title as well. By clicking the "A" button, the word "journey" will only be searched for in the artist field, and hence list me what I really wanted. Another feature we've added, is the ability to drag items to these buttons. For example, let's say I'm looking at my playlist and I see a song by "Led Zeppelin" and think "what other songs do they have that I may want to play?", instead of taking the time to type "led zeppelin" in the text box, I would simply drag the playlist item over the "A" button (because it's the Artist I'm looking for) and it would instantly list all the Led Zeppelin songs. You can also drag existing media items over the buttons, and even drag a singer from the rotation over the T or A buttons. When dragging items from the Media list or Playlist, the corresponding value will be searched, so when you drag over the "T" button, it extracts the "title" from the dragged object. A singer doesn't have a corresponding title or artist, so it simply uses their name, but if you have a singer named "fred", it may be nice to show fred how many original artists are named fred. The only drag not allowed is to drag a singer over the "D" button (which wouldn't make sense anyway). However, when you do drag a media or playlist item over the "D" button, it will automatically trim off any track number (for example SC12345-02 would be trimmed to SC12345), which then has the media list show you all the other tracks that were on that same original disc.

Once you find the song you want, you can double-click it, and choose to "Play Now" which will play the song immediately, or you can drag it to the playlist, or if it's for a singer to sing, you can drag and drop it on a singer in the rotation, which, brings us to the next topic. To insert a singer, either hit the "insert" key on your keyboard, or click the little "+" sign on the top of the rotation panel and choose "Insert Singer". You can drag multiple songs to the same singer and Karma will automatically sort

them into the playlist. If you add 3 songs to one singer and there aren't many songs lined up for other singers, you'll notice that it would appear that the singer with 3 songs is going to sing them before the others get up, but you'll notice that as you add songs to the other singers (before they are up), you'll see that Karma automatically sorts the other singers songs into the right places. In a professional karaoke show, you need to keep an eye on the QTY of songs for the singers. If someone is "Up Next", and they have a QTY of zero, you need to get them a song and drag it to their name before clicking the "NS" button in the upper right (which plays the next song that is assigned to a singer). The "Next" button is for playing the next song at the top of the playlist. Since you may have "filler" DJ music loaded in the playlist at the top, and by default, songs without a singer are set to autoplay because it's assumed they are filler DJ music, in those cases, the next song will play automatically. If the song at the top of the playlist is set to autoplay, the "AP" box will be checked for that song. Autoplay can be toggled on or off by simply clicking the AP checkbox next to the song in the playlist.

Most of the controls are pretty self-explanatory, but read on further for the finer details of using the program....

Menu

The menu button in the top left part of the screen is for opening and closing the main menu. This menu should not be needed during your show, so it is neatly tucked away. The menu items are pretty self explanatory and you can click on each to find out it's use.

Media - This is where you tell Karma where all of your songs are located. Once your folders of songs are imported into the Karma media database, they are automatically loaded into Karma each time the program is run. If you make any changes to your song collection outside of Karma, you'll need to use the "Update Database" function to have Karma re-read the folders of songs. Karma stores the list of songs in it's own file and doesn't read the contents of each folder each time the program is run, but instead loads the media database, which is faster than re-reading the songs from the hard drive every time.

Singers - This is where the master database of singers is located. Every time you add a new singer to the rotation, if they don't already exist in the singers database, they will be added automatically. From the Singer Database window, you can view and edit information about each singer, including their song history of songs they've sang. There is also a button for copying all of the found email addresses of singers to the clipboard, which then can be pasted into the "TO:" field of an external email program like Windows Mail or Microsoft Outlook.

Settings - This is where to set many various program preferences.

Full Screen Toggle - This is toggles between a normal maximized Window (the default) and full screen mode which enables Karma to use up the space normally used by the title bar and the

windows task bar. It gives you more screen space and also prevents the little red "X" close button from accidentally being clicked. To exit the program in full screen mode, simply click "menu", then "exit".

iCroons - Link to iCroons.com for finding new songs or referencing existing ones.

Help - Accesses this help file from within the program.

About - Shows the "About" screen which lists the program's version, licensee name, credits, and copyright information.

License - This is where you enter your license information to activate the program. The license may also be removed from this screen. Once a license is removed, it is then available to be activated on another machine, or the same machine if you needed to reload the operating system.

Exit - Exits the program

Player Controls

Karma's player controls are located on the upper right of the main screen. These are the controls you will use most often during your show to Play, Pause, Next Song, Next Singer, and adjust things like pitch, CDG timing, and volume. All player controls can also be used from the keyboard (see [keyboard shortcuts](#)).

Mute - Toggles mute on or off. Mute turns the volume down to zero instantly, but not stop the player.

Volume - Volume control. Adjust up or down via +/- buttons. Clicking on the value itself takes you back to full volume.

CDG Timing - Used for adjusting the timing of the lyrics (in seconds). A value of zero plays the lyrics in synch with the music as it was set from the factory. Positive values will place the lyrics ahead and negative values will place the lyrics behind the music by the amount listed in seconds. Clicking on the value itself will set the synch back to zero (default).

Pitch - Pitch control for the currently playing song (in half-tones). Clicking on the value itself will reset the pitch back to zero. Pitch can be set ahead of time for individual songs via double-clicking the song in the playlist, and when a song has it's pitch set ahead of time, when it's brought up in the player via the "Next" or "Next Singer" buttons, the pitch will automatically be set when the song is played.

←► **(Top)** - Starts or Restarts a song from the Top (the beginning). If a startpoint is set for the song, the song will begin playing from the startpoint.

▶ || (**Play / Pause**) - Begins playback of media. During playback, the button becomes a pause button for pausing the song at its current position.

■ (**Stop**) - Stops a song immediately. Unlike pausing, stopping a song resets its position to the beginning of the song.

▒■ (**Fade Stop**) - Stops a song slowly fading it out (using the set fade time from the fade slider)

▲ ≡ (**Next**) - Plays the next song in the playlist, moving it from the playlist to "Now Playing"

▲ ☺ (**Next Singer**) - Plays the next song that is assigned to a singer, which is usually the next karaoke performance.

00:00:00 (**Time Display**) - Displays either Time Elapsed or Time Remaining in the song. Click on the display to toggle between elapsed and remaining values.

Secondary Controls

Karma's secondary controls are the controls at the bottom of the screen

▼ ▲ - Adjusts the height of the secondary controls panel to one of four different heights including hidden if taken to the lowest level.

New Show - Simple function of clearing both rotation and playlists in preparation for a new show. Karma automatically saves current show information throughout your show in case you suddenly lose power, so that the next time Karma loads each time, you'll see any leftover signers or songs.

SPI (Song Position Indicator) - Indicates position within the song. You change position by clicking the desired position during play or while paused. Right-clicking will set the endpoint. The SP tab shows only the song position control by itself and gives it the greatest width for better accuracy, and switching to other tabs moves the song control to that tab so you never lose sight of it.

SFX (Sound Effects) - The Sound Effects bank is for playing custom sound clips in the middle of a show. Karma comes preloaded with 10 sound effects, but users can click the edit button to change any of the 10 effects to any sound clip of their choosing. Sound effects supports MP3 and WAV files.

EQ (Equalizer) - 10-band graphic equalizer. Each band adjusts +/- 15db (which is a greater range than the average EQ, so be careful not to create settings that could blow your speakers). Clicking on the top bar of any EQ slider will reset that band back to zero. For rooms with a lot of hard flat

surfaces, you'll want to reduce the mid to mid-high range. The 70Hz frequency acts as good sub-woofer control for those with subwoofers. EQ settings can be saved and retrieved via the EQ menu.

Font - Sets the font size for the app. This setting resizes all controls on the screen automatically and in proportion. If you plan to set the size above 14, its recommended to set the height of the secondary controls panel larger than the smallest height as the labels on the MPX and VIEW labels may not be completely visible at the smallest height setting.

Tempo - Sets the tempo for the currently loaded song. The default value is zero. The values are between 20 (top) and -20 (bottom), and are a relative percent to the normal speed, so a setting of 20 will play the song 20% faster and visa versa. Tempo is automatically reset to zero for all new songs loaded into the player. To set the value to zero, simply click the "tempo" title bar above the slider. Note that changing the tempo will simply increase or decrease the speed of the song clock, but won't actually reflect the true amount of time passed or remaining since the song clock is based on position within the song.

XF (Cross Fade Time) - This sets the cross fade time (in seconds). Bottom value is zero seconds for no cross fade and top value is 7 seconds. Cross fading is the effect of overlapping the song about to end and the new song that's beginning to play by slowly lowering the volume of the ending song and slowly raising (from zero) the volume of the new song. Once a cross fade begins to fade to the new song, all of the player controls immediately link to the new song that is beginning to play and you lose all control of the song that's fading away.

FV (Filler Volume %) - This is defaults to 100% which makes the filler music between singers (any song not assigned to a singer) the same volume as the karaoke performances. If you like the filler music at a lower volume than the karaoke performances, this is where you can adjust this.

MV (Master Volume) - The master volume is the main volume control for the entire computer. It's linked to the Windows master volume control next to your clock (but this is simply more convenient)

MPX (Multiplex Switch) - The multiplex switch by default is set to Stereo which is normal operation. The default setting can be changed by right clicking the option you want as the default. When a new song is played, the MPX switch will switch back to the default setting. This is sometimes used for example for a karaoke track that has vocals on the right channel. Setting the MPX switch to "L" will play only the left channel through both speakers and thereby eliminating the vocals on the right channel. Sometimes setting the default to Mono is useful in situations at a venue where the speakers can't be setup in a way that provides all listeners an equal level of both left and right speakers, or for situations where you only have one speaker.

CPU - This is only functional during playback and gives you a reading of how hard your computer's processor is working. This is useful in judging whether you need to take some action to reduce the CPU usage. Reads the tips section of this help file for tips in reducing cpu usage.

View (View Box) - This is where you can turn on or off the visibility of certain items.

SFX - Toggles viewing of the Sound Effects control. If you don't use Sound Effects during your show, hiding this will yield more room for the SPI display.

EQ - Toggle viewing of the Equalizer control. If you don't use the EQ (and if you have a mixer with an EQ, you should use the one on your mixer if you want to save cpu cycles), then hiding the EQ will

also yield more room for the SPI display. Even if you do use the EQ, you can set it, and then hide it. Hiding the EQ does NOT turn it off.

Vid1 (Video 1)* - Toggles viewing of the Video 1 display which is the local display on the main Karma screen.

Vid2 (Video 2)* - Toggles viewing of the Video 2 display which is a full screen display of the lyrics and can only be turned on when a secondary display is setup in Windows. Once setup, you can turn this on and then setup other things about Vid2 like...

NSD (Next Singers Display) - The Next Singers Display displays a list of upcoming singers in between karaoke performances, and will stay on the screen during DJ music playback as well. Having the on/off switch immediately available is handy as some KJs like to turn off this display near the end of the night as to not confuse the crowd into thinking there is time for more singers.

Scr (Scroller) - The scroller control is a scrolling marquee that will be viewed on the video 2 monitor (if it's turned on) and can display various information to the audience like the currently playing song, the list of singers in the rotation starting at the next singer up, and other customer messages that you'd like the audience to see. The "ON" switch sets whether it's displayed or not, and the edit button takes you to the settings for that control where you can can various appearance features of the control.

Edit Buttons - The edit buttons are for editing the NSD and Scroller displays on Video 2. These items can be set in the settings window, but these buttons are for fast access those settings.

*Always have your monitors setup and working before loading any videos or karaoke songs

Working with Panels & Grids

Panels

One of Karma's design goals is to make sure no window ever "overlaps" another window, so Karma uses a "panel" approach which incorporates multiple panels that can be sized and stretched with the mouse while never overlapping one another. Simply move the mouse cursor over the border between two panels. Once you do, you should see the mouse's appearance change to a splitter control, which means you can now hold down the left mouse button and "drag" the panel's splitter to resize the split between the two panels. There are three main split panel pairs: The MAIN splitter

which separates the Media/Rotation side and the NowPlaying/Video1/Playlist side, the MEDIA/ROTATION splitter, and the Video1/Playlist splitter. Each can be resized independently. If you want to change the actual locations of the panels, you can go to Layout tab of the Settings window and rotate any of the panel splitters into one of four "Clock Positions", for a total of 64 different screen layout combinations.

Grids

Grids are the rectangular areas of the screen that contain rows of data, which are divided into columns for individual fields. The Main Karma screen contains three main grids: The Media grid, the Rotation grid, and the Playlist grid. Each grid contains a "header" which lists the column names.

Column Sizing - Columns can be resized by moving the mouse over the header, and moving the mouse horizontally between two columns until you see the mouse cursor change into a sizing symbol. When you see the mouse cursor change to this symbol, that is the location of the columns "edge". Dragging this edge will resize the column, but also keep in mind that it also manipulates the size of the other columns to make room for your adjustment. It usually takes multiple adjustments to get the column sizes to your liking.

Column Moving - The order of the columns (from left to right) can be changed by moving columns to different positions. To move a column, simply click the columns header, hold the mouse button down and drag it to its desired location. Red arrows will appear showing you where the column will be placed as you move it between other columns. Releasing the mouse button will "drop" the column in its new position.

Media Panel

The Media Panel contains your list of media (karaoke songs, DJ songs, etc..). By default, Karma will list one category at a time. At the top of the media list will be a dropdown box that contains the different categories. Simply select the category and that category of media will appear. Clicking the Media menu (the + in the upper left), gives you the option to view by category or list all categories at once. When viewing all categories, an additional column for category is added.

Songs from the media list can be dragged to either a singer in the rotation list, or directly to the playlist. Dragging a song to a singer automatically adds the song to the playlist and automatically assigns it to that singer.

Searching - Searching for a song is very simple with Karma. There's no need to click on the search box. No matter where you are in the main screen, just start typing. The characters you type will appear in the upper left of the Media Panel. Type in only enough letters or word fragments to narrow down what you're looking for. When you're done, hit the "Enter" key on your keyboard. You can use the backspace key for a mistake, and you can use the Escape key to clear the search phrase and start over. Hitting the Escape key twice will bring back the entire list. Your search text can be whole words or any part of a word. For example, if I wanted to search for the song "Stone in Love" by "Journey", I could simply type "jour ston" and hit enter. Karma will search through both the title and artists fields and make sure both of those word fragments exist.

Adding Songs to the Playlist - Simply drag a song from the media list to the position you'd like to have it in the playlist. Dragging a media item over an existing item in the playlist will insert the song

just before the one you dropped it on. Dropping a song at the end, will add it to the end of the playlist. If you accidentally dragged a karaoke song to the playlist instead of dragging it to the singer or if you accidentally dragged it to the wrong singer, you can drag the same song from the playlist to the appropriate singer and assign the singer that way as well.

Adding Songs to a Singer - Simply drag a song and drop a song from the media list onto the singer you wish to assign it. Karma will automatically sort it into playlist using the rotation order.

Playing Songs Immediately - Double click any item in the playlist and it will bring up the "Media Object" window. This window gives you a variety of options of what to do with the selected song. You can set various settings for the song before playing it, adding it to the playlist, or assigning it to a singer.

Rotation Panel

The rotation panel is the list of all the singers that are going to be singing at your karaoke show. Simply hit the "Insert" key on your keyboard to insert a new singer (or click the "+" sign at the top of the rotation panel and then choose the "Insert Singer" option). To move singers around to change rotation order, simply drag them with the mouse to change their position. Playlist order is automatically adjusted for any changes in rotation order. To assign a song to a singer, simply drag and drop the song from the media panel right to the singer you wish to assign it to. Karma will automatically add and sort the song in the playlist. To change anything about a singer, simply double-click the singer to bring up the "Rotation Singer" window which you can use to see the queued songs for the singer (and change the order), view the singer's history, or update information about the singer like their real name or email address. Getting the email addresses of your singers is a good idea. Karma now has the option to copy all the email addresses to an external email program so that you can email all of your singers at once. Weekly email reminders to your singers about your show dates is always a good idea.

Singer Lists - Sometimes singers come to your shows in regular "groups". If you have regular groups of singers that come to your show, creating singer lists of them makes adding them to the rotation next time a lot easier. For example, let's say there's the "Smith Family" who usually comes to your show and there are 4 members, John, Jane, Jimmy, and Joey. The first time, you'll need to manually enter each of their names. Once they're in the rotation, click one of the members, then hold down the control key on your key while you select the others. Once all of the members of the Smith family are selected, click the rotation menu (+ in the upper left) and choose "Save Singer List". Type "Smith Family" and hit enter. You've now saved the Smith family as a singer list. When they arrive at your next show, simply choose "Open Singer List" and double-click the "Smith Family" file and all 4 members will be added to your rotation at once. If one of the members is out or sick that week, you can still open their singer list, but then simply remove the missing member from the rotation. The Singer list will not be affected and still contain all 4 members unless you overwrite the singer list file later.

Rotation Singer Window - Double-clicking any singer in the rotation brings up the Rotation Singer window. From this window, you can view the currently queued songs for that singer, and also view the singer's history of previously sang songs. From this screen, you can also enter more detailed information about the singer like their first and last name and their email address. Songs in the current queue can be dragged around to change the order. Songs from the the singer's history can be dragged into the current queue as well. Double-clicking on a song in the singer history will

automatically set it as their next song and then automatically close the window. To delete an item either in the singer's history or the current queue, simply select the item, then hit the "delete" button on your keyboard.

Now Playing Panel

The title bar labeled "Now Playing" displays what is currently playing. If the currently playing song's title and artist go off the screen due to being too long, simply hold the mouse over the Now Playing title bar for a second and the entire contents will be displayed in a tool tip. Clicking once on the Now Playing title bar will display what's currently playing and show you other available versions (this is mainly for karaoke where there are multiple versions of the same song). In order for all the other versions to appear in the list, they must have the exact same title and artist. Keeping your collection of songs properly titled is rather crucial for this feature to be effective. This window is designed for those times when the singer says "That's not the right version". Simply double-click the different version and it will automatically start playing. The "Search Title" and "Search Artist" buttons are for when you have the title or artist wrong and then it will list (in the media list) the songs with the same title or artist.

If Video1 is turned on, the Now Playing panel itself will display the currently playing karaoke lyrics. When Video 1 is turned off, the Now Playing panel is collapsed and only the Now Playing title bar appears.

Playlist Panel

The Playlist Panel list the songs yet to be played. The topmost song in the list is the song that will be played next either automatically (if AP is check) or manually by clicking the "Next" button. The "NS" button (Next Singer) will skip to the first song with a singer assigned. Songs without a singer (DJ music) can be dragged to change position. If you want to change a singer's position, you need to move their place in the rotation list.

To edit any information about a playlist item, double-click the item and the "Playlist Object" window is opened.

In the upper left of the playlist is the Playlist menu with options for opening or saving playlists, or manually adding media files.

- **Insert Playlist** - Opens a saved playlist and inserts it at the beginning of the playlist. Playlists should be DJ songs only and to have them as filler music in between singers, it makes most sense to add them to the beginning of the list.

- **Insert Playlist before selected item** - Opens a saved playlist and inserts it before the selected row. If no row is selected, this option is not enabled.

- **Append Playlist** - Opens a saved playlist and adds it to the end of the playlist.

- **Open Playlist** - Opens a saved playlist. This clears any existing files in the playlist so its a good idea to do this before your show starts, or make sure no singers have songs in the queue when opening a playlist.

- **Save Playlist** - This gives you the ability to create lists of filler music ahead of time that you can

later open before your show starts.

- **Shuffle DJ Songs** - This randomizes the order of DJ music in the playlist and is a good idea if you use the same playlist of filler music for every show.

- **Manually Add Media File** - enables you to open a media file from any location and add it to the playlist. This comes in handy if you need to rip a track during a show and don't want to wait to update the media database.

- **Clear Playlist** - Clears the entire playlist of all songs.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Although most people (out of sheer habit) will use the mouse to click the player controls, learning their keyboard shortcuts saves the time of grabbing the mouse and navigating to the appropriate button.

F1 = Volume Mute (toggle on/off)

F2 = Video 1 Full Screen toggle

F3 = Volume Down

F4 = Volume Up

F5 = CDG Timing Backward

F6 = CDG Timing Forward

F7 = Top (play from start)

F8 = Play / Pause

F9 = Stop

F10 = Fade Stop

F11 = Next Song

F12 = Next Singer

[Insert] key = Add singer to rotation

[Esc] key = Clears Search Text (on first press) / Shows All Media (on second press) / Closes Window (for popup windows)

[Del] key = Deletes items from playlist, rotation, and singer history

Tips & Tricks

Performance Tips

- For users of Windows 7 (or Vista), turn off UAC (User Account Control) from the User Accounts section of Windows control panel. This windows "feature" can cause strange problems related to file access. Karma updates the "datashow" file (located in the Karma data folder) every time a change occurs anywhere on the main screen in order to bring back the show in the event of a crash or power failure. Turning off UAC will help speed up the file access process, reduce chances for file corruption, and provide for a smoother experience as well.
- Always make sure your computer is up to date with Windows Update. Always install any updates categorized as "important", and any optional updates related to the Microsoft .Net framework, and any optional updates that are hardware drivers (video, audio, etc...). Microsoft is constantly making improvements to windows and third party drivers, and keeping your computer up to date will help insure not only security, but better performance.
- Don't run third party anti-virus programs. If you have any installed, uninstall them. The only Anti-Virus/Anti-Spam software we recommend is [Microsoft Security Essentials](#) which is completely free and doesn't degrade the performance of running programs like some third party anti-virus programs do.
- Although some people like to use karaoke files in zip format, zip files slow down a lot of processes within the program, so, we recommend unzipping your files for many reasons. With the cost of large hard drives at an all time low, the reasons for keeping files zipped no longer exists. When online, [click here for more information](#) on the benefits of keeping your files unzipped and for access to a tool that can help unzip all your files at once.
- Run your shows from songs on an internal drive (as opposed to an external USB) if possible. This is especially true for laptops. Newer eSATA (and USB 3.0) drives are virtually as fast as internal drives so they're not an issue, but older USB 2.0 drives are slower and there will be pauses in loading songs (especially if using zip files). If you have laptop, they now make 1 Terabyte laptop drives and they can be installed in your laptop replacing your existing drive and provide much better performance, not to mention you won't have to carry around that extra drive all the time. Note that terabyte laptop drives are slightly thicker and they may not fit into an older laptop so check the clearance before ordering one.
- Regardless of whether your files are on an internal or external hard drive, make sure windows isn't set to put the drive to sleep after a specific period of time. Windows, by default will turn off a hard drive after a specific amount of time (usually 5 or 10 minutes). We recommend setting this value to either "never" (preferably) or at least 20 minutes. Having this value set too low can cause the drive to power down in the middle of a show and when Karma needs to play the next song, there may be a 7 to 10 second pause while it waits or the drive to "spin up". To change this setting, go to Windows Control Panel under the power settings and look for the "Advanced Power Settings" option. Also, if your drive is a USB drive, remember to also disable the USB suspend setting.
- If you're running windows 7 or later and you have a PC or laptop that doesn't seem to output enough audio volume, Windows now includes a technology for increasing perceived volume without actually requiring any additional hardware. This option is not available on all sound devices, but most newer

PCs that come with high definition audio will have this feature. Open windows control panel, click "Hardware and Sound", then click "sound", then click your default speakers or audio device (the one with the green check next to it), then click the "properties" button, then click the "Enhancements" tab, then enable the "Loudness Equalization". You'll notice that all audio from your computer will now sound up to 40% louder. Even if your audio system amplifies the sound enough already, this is still a good thing to turn on as it won't require your amp to work as hard because its achieving a higher "perceived" volume without using any additional watts.

- When using a dual screen setup where you don't need video 1 to go full screen, choosing lyrics engine option 3 in the advanced tab of the settings window will further reduce cpu usage.

- When using a second monitor, it's a good habit to set the resolution of the second monitor to the lowest possible setting (usually 800x600). This reduces cpu power required because it requires extra cycles scaling the small CDG lyrics window to larger resolutions. If you plan to use a second monitor, always get it attached and turned on within Windows before launching Karma. Once Karma is loaded, turn on video 2 before starting to play any media. Turning on the second monitor after playing has started can result in undesirable results on the screen since the second screen isn't "measured" for its size until its turned on. If you're running Windows XP or earlier, you'll want the second monitor hooked up and on before you even turn on the computer or it may not be recognized by windows. Windows 7 (or Vista) users can hook up your main display and then attach the secondary display after windows has booted. This helps assure that Windows assigns the primary display to the one hooked up during the boot process. For more information about setting up a secondary display in windows go to http://www.Karaosoft.com/Info_PCDJs.aspx#dualscreendisplay

- If running Windows 7 (or Vista) and you have high cpu usage during MP3+G playback, if setting the resolution on the second monitor to the lowest possible setting still doesn't reduce the cpu usage enough, turning off Windows Aero Desktop can help reduce cpu and video cycles on slower machines.

- If you set your computer to sleep between shows, it's a good habit to close Karma before putting the computer to sleep. Having Karma loaded in memory after waking from sleep mode has been known to cause video and CDG playback issues on some machines.

General Tips

- If you have songs or media files that have mistakes in their spelling or format, it's a good idea to get them fixed before starting your first show if possible and update the media database. If a singer sings a song and it's stored in their history, any future changes to the song name will result in that song becoming useless in their history as the program stores the exact path to the file and if that changes for any reason, it won't be found in the future. If you already have histories for your singers and later go back to correct files or make any changes to the names or locations of existing files, the best thing to do is to completely delete all the singers and start from scratch if you don't want any embarrassing moments at a show.

- If you're using an external drive, it makes good sense to assign it a drive letter. If you don't, it's possible that the next time you connect the drive, Windows may assign it a different letter. If that happens, any media in the media database (on that drive) won't be found and you'll need to update

the database every time this happens. This too will affect singer's histories and make them invalid so it's a good idea to plan ahead of time and create a path to your media files that won't change.

- Create Playlists. In your spare time (not during a show), take the time to make short playlists of DJ music, then save and label them accordingly. Playlists can be inserted in the middle of a show so there's no need to make one large playlist of filler music as eventually your crowd will notice the same songs playing. Make multiple playlists of like 5 to 10 songs in each, creating each with it's own unique flavor and purpose. Having small playlists of dance songs, rock songs, oldies, etc.. can have you prepared for virtually any event. The playlist menu does include a "shuffle" option for randomizing the order of songs so that your crowd doesn't notice the same songs playing in the same order every show.

Tricks

- For quick changes to pitch or auto-play in the playlist, after double-clicking a playlist item, instead of a single click, simply double-click the pitch or auto-play setting and the window will immediately close after changing the setting. This saves you a little time since you don't have to navigate the mouse to the close button after changing the setting.

- Although the "Rotation Singer" and "Playlist Object" windows give you the option to remove the selected item from it's respected list, simply selecting the list item and then hitting the delete key on the keyboard will also accomplish the same thing.

- From the rotation singer window, double-clicking a song in a Singer's History automatically adds the song to their queue and the window will also automatically close. This is a handy trick for known singers who usually sing the same songs that they've sang before and it's quicker than dragging.

- From the Media Object window, double-clicking a singer automatically adds the song to their queue and closes the window automatically.

- If a song starts and the singer complains that it's the wrong version, simply click the "Now Playing" title bar and a list of all available versions of that song will appear, and double-clicking the correct version will automatically start to play it, and replace the singer's history with the correct version. If the singer says it's the wrong song entirely, simply lookup the correct song in the media list, double-click the song, and then choose the "replace" option, which in turn will begin playing the new song and replace the wrong song in the singer's history with the newly chosen one.

- If you accidently drag a song to the wrong singer, a quick way to change the assigned singer is to simply drag it from the playlist to the intended singer in the rotation grid. This can also come in handy if you know a different singer has previously sang a song. You can pull up the old singer, double click the song from their history, and then simply drag the song to the new singer.