



Karaoke Piracy

What Every Karaoke Singer Needs To Know

Did you know that over 90% of Karaoke Jockeys (KJ's) are using stolen or pirated music to put on their shows? Did you know that supporting such shows is helping to put an end to karaoke?

As a singer, it's a great feeling when the KJ of an establishment has every song you want to sing. The problem is that most of them are operating illegally and have never paid a penny for those songs.

It's true. These KJ's, referred to as **Pirates**, are stealing instead of buying their music. Because of this, many karaoke music publishers can no longer afford to produce new music. DK® and Chartbuster Karaoke® have already gone out of business and Sound Choice® hasn't recorded any new tracks in over ten years. No manufacturer can stay in business if people are stealing instead of buying their products.

How do I know if a KJ is a pirate?

KJ's claiming to have 50, 75, or even 100 thousand or more songs, is usually an indication of piracy since this is a very un-realistic number. Think about it, if a KJ claims to have 100,000 songs at an average price of \$2.50 per song, he/she would have paid a whopping \$250,000.00 for them, which is unlikely and the very reason that legal KJ's don't have every song ever made. We have to *pay* for them. The average legal KJ has between 10 and twenty thousand songs.

Where do they get them from?

Pirates get them from file sharing web sites, which is illegal or from buying loaded hard drives (containing up to a hundred thousand or more songs) for only a couple of hundred dollars, which is also illegal.

What's the deal with using a computer?

KJ's who's karaoke music tracks reside on a computer that's used to run their shows, must own all of the original manufacturer CD's, not copies or burns, that those tracks came from and be able to prove it. This is called 1 to 1 compliance and requires permission and/or certification from the karaoke manufacturer(s).

How do I know if a KJ is operating legally?

Ask how many songs they have. Anything over 25,000 songs is questionable. Then, ask them where they got them from. Pirates are proud of the fact that they got all of their songs for free or at very little cost and are usually happy to share that with you.

I just want to sing. Why should I care?

Because piracy has caused the demise of your top three favorite U.S. karaoke brands; DK, Chartbuster and Sound choice. It won't be long before the remaining few follow suit since you can't stay in business if people are stealing from you. This means there won't be anybody in the U.S. producing karaoke tracks. We now have to get the latest karaoke releases from publishers in France (KV) and the United Kingdom (SBI, Sunfly, Zoom).

Sound Choice®, along with other karaoke music publishers, have been fighting back. Every day, they're secretly visiting establishments across the country and filing lawsuits for copyright infringement against KJ's and venues suspected of using music tracks that have been illegally obtained. **This could result in no more karaoke at your favorite place.**

All of the ads on eBay, Craigslist and similar sites that are offering pre-loaded hard drives, used by **Pirates**, are operated by criminals. Plain and simple, piracy is stealing. It is illegal to buy or sell such systems, with statutory fines running into the millions of dollars.

Pirates will often try to under-cut the legal KJ by offering to work for less than the going rate. They can do this because they have no investment in music; it's stolen! On the other hand, the legal KJ has spent thousands of dollars on music and will always have ongoing expenses keeping up with the latest releases.

Sound Choice®, an industry leader, has been producing high quality accompaniment tracks since 1987. They are one of the most widely recognized and respected karaoke brands in the US. More singers ask for Sound Choice® than any other version. We are proud to be working with them and support their efforts in the fight against piracy. You can support them too by contacting them if you suspect a venue/KJ to be operating illegally.

- Email: piracy@soundchoice.com
- Call the Sound Choice Anti-Piracy Hotline at 800-788-4487

Karaoke is the #1 form of entertainment offered by venues across the country. We would like to keep it that way and see it continue for many years to come. If you would too, then please:

Do Not Support Venues With Illegal Karaoke

As you can see, piracy affects us all and is hurting the karaoke industry. It has caused karaoke manufacturers as well as legal KJ's to go out of business. Together, we can do something about it. For more information, please visit our website at www.firelightkaraoke.com. and spread the word!

Firelight Karaoke's music library has been audited and certified by Sound Choice® and found to be 100% legal and in compliance with Media Shifting Policies. All of the karaoke tracks used in our shows, come from the original manufacturer's discs that we have legally purchased and own. Certification #P96673214



*Based on a report by the KIAA (Karaoke Industry Alliance of America)