Instruction Manual for

Karaoke5 Player/Professional
(Version 37.9)

1. What is Karaoke5?

Karaoke5 is a **MIDI, KAR, KFN, MP3, WMA, MP3+CDG, WMA+CDG and CD+G** files reader and was developed out of the need to provide a Karaoke player program that would be versatile and intuitive and yet provide the ability to achieve professional features not available in other freeware programs.
Karaoke5 is, therefore, a complete program for either neophytes or for those who practice the art of karaoke professionally.

In the professional version (which can be activated by entering a free code obtainable by making posts at www.karaoke5.com/forumen), Karaoke5 is an excellent text synchronizer for the creation of .kar, Midi and MP3 files, for the particular management (with Double Screen "TV", mixing of songs through the Mix Control, K5 Virtual Instruments, Arranger Express, BroadCast etc. etc.) during performances or shows.

2. Installation and Updates

The first program installation is intuitive and does not present any difficulties for those who have basic computer knowledge. The initial steps are to download the most updated version of the executable file (downloadable at www.karaoke5.com), double click on the icon and wait for the setup to start.
The video instructions, during the installation, are clear and easily understood and the user can let the setup program make all the decisions and just click through the installation. The installation will be placed in an easily found and dedicated directory (typically C:\Program Files\Karaoke5) and the program will be accessed or opened through the Windows "START" menu or from the link on the desktop.

The Recharge

The Recharge is a code, obtainable for free at www.karaoke5.com/forumen (after registration and login), used to activate the PROFESSIONAL features of the program. NO RECHARGE IS NEEDED FOR THE HOME USE OF THE KARAOKE5 PROGRAM (the Player part of the program).
N.B. The recharges are only valid for the most up-to date version of the program available ONLINE.
Therefore if you have an older version of the program the recharges will not work to activate the professional features.

A first look at the program
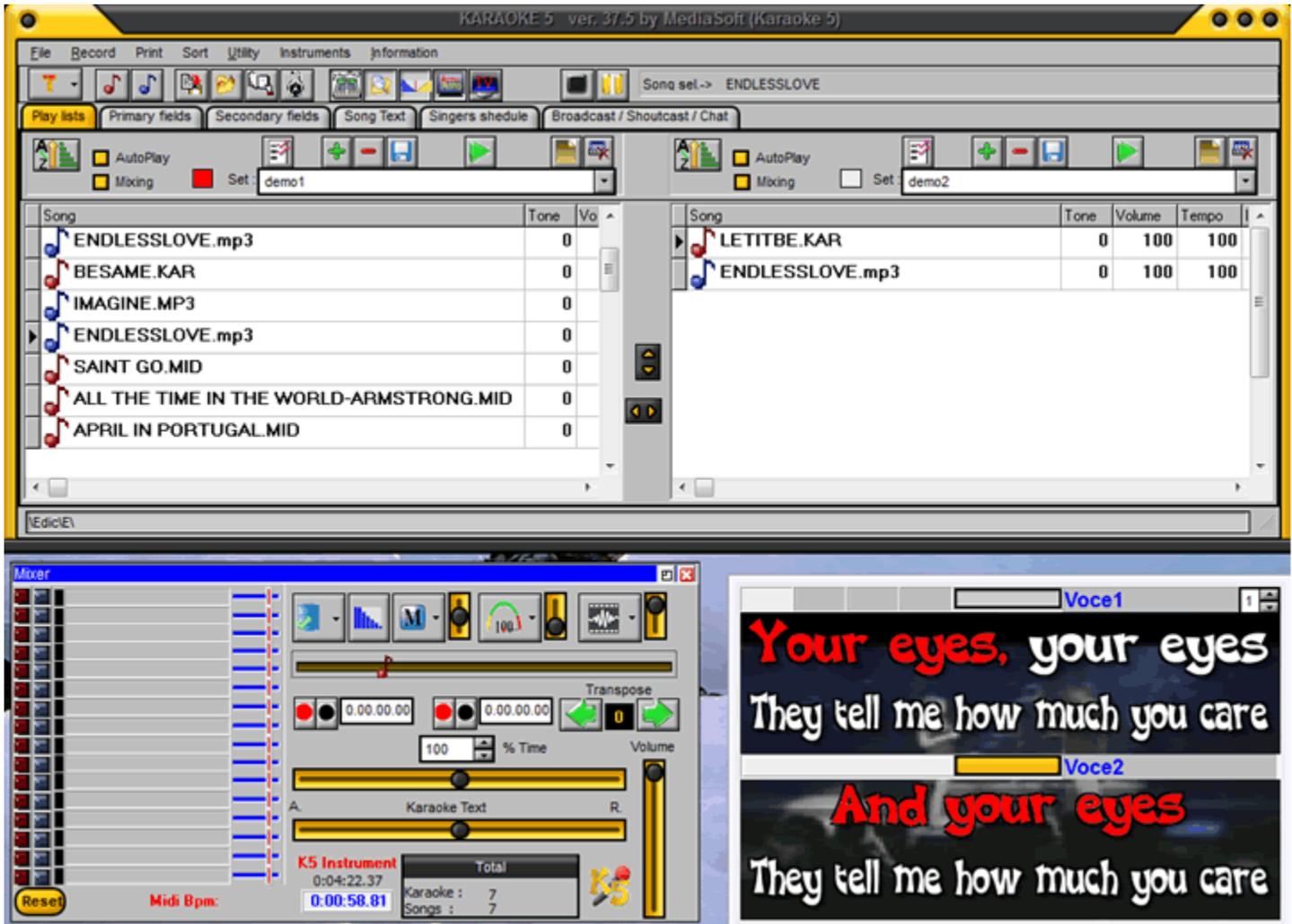
In the picture above you can see some of the elements of the first (opening) window of the program. In addition to the "Menu" (which we will look at later) you will notice the PLAYLIST section (used by those who do not set up the PRIMARY FIELDS/K5 DATABASE), the MIXER section, the KARAOKE TEXT WINDOW, the MIXING CONTROL and the EXPLORER section to find your available resources (on the internal and external hard, USB, CD e DVD media). Later we will analyze the MIXER window with specific details to explain its various functions.

From the Explorer window (press on F3 if it is not visible) you can perform a search for your karaoke files.
This is an important function for those who do not want to use either the Primary Fields/K5 Database or the Playlists.
All you need to do is right-click on drive where the files are located, choose Search from the menu and enter the name of the file you are looking for in the Search window field.

THE PLAYLIST SETS
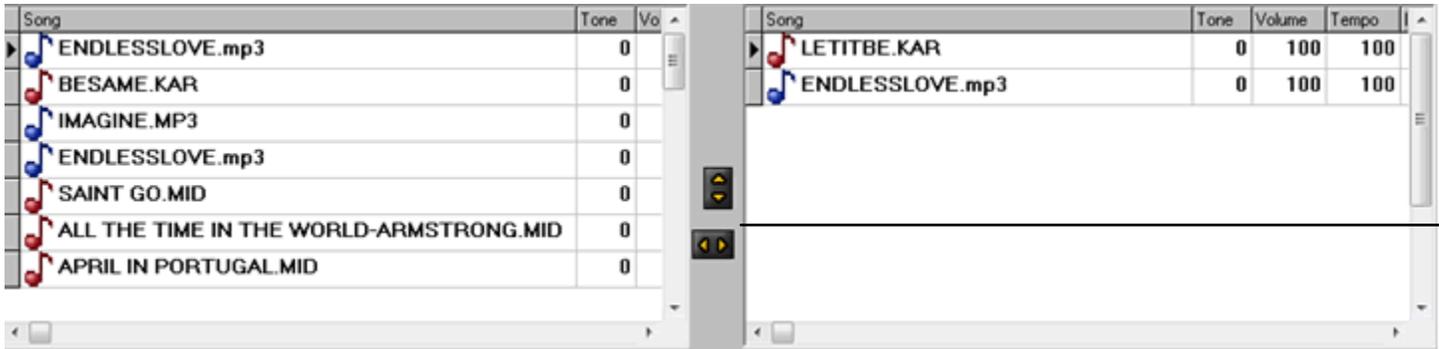
There are two Playlist sections, independent from each other and, although they can interact (if the MIXING function is used), they cannot be activated at the same time.
An active Playlist is indicated by the red square located directly above the corresponding Playlist section.

The scroll bars located on the right of either section will let you peruse the entire Playlist and the four buttons located in between the two Playlist will allow you to scroll up or down the Playlists one song at a time or move a song from one Playlist to the other so that the Playlists can be easily modified by the user.
Tone, tempo and the various volumes can personalize the songs so that the songs will play with the settings memorized while in the work process. This is accomplished by changing the values for the particular song in the Tone, Tempo etc column.

There are two methods to insert a file in a Playlist:
-    Through the "click and drag" function from the available resources window
-    Through the "Open Song" button located above the active playlist.

Let's look at the buttons for the two sections.

From left to right:
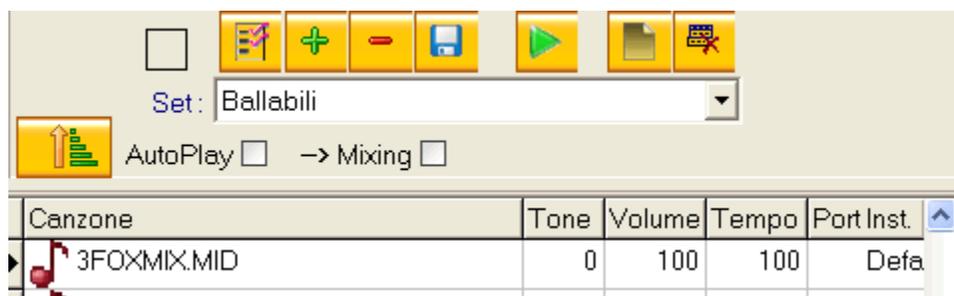
The button LOAD FROM
PRIMARY FIELDS will let you select a file in the Primary Fields/K5 Database and insert it in the active playlist.

The OPEN SONG button will let you search for a file located on you computer and add it in the active playlist.
The DELETE ROW button will remove the selected row in the active playlist.

The SAVE PLAYLIST button will save the active playlist on your hard drive.
The PLAY button will start the selected song.
The NEW SET button will let you create a new set within the active playlist.

Insert a name for the set and confirm by clicking on SAVE

The button DELETE OR RENAME SET will let you either change the name of the set or delete it completely.

Another useful button is the SORT alphabetically button on the top left side of the active Playlist. An additional click on it will place the songs in their original order.

Placing a check mark on the Auto Play box will allow playing the songs one after the other in the order that you select, automatically. Placing a check mark on the Mixing box will mix the songs set to play automatically with the second option (Cross Fader) of the Mixing control.

## THE KARAOKE (TEXT) WINDOW
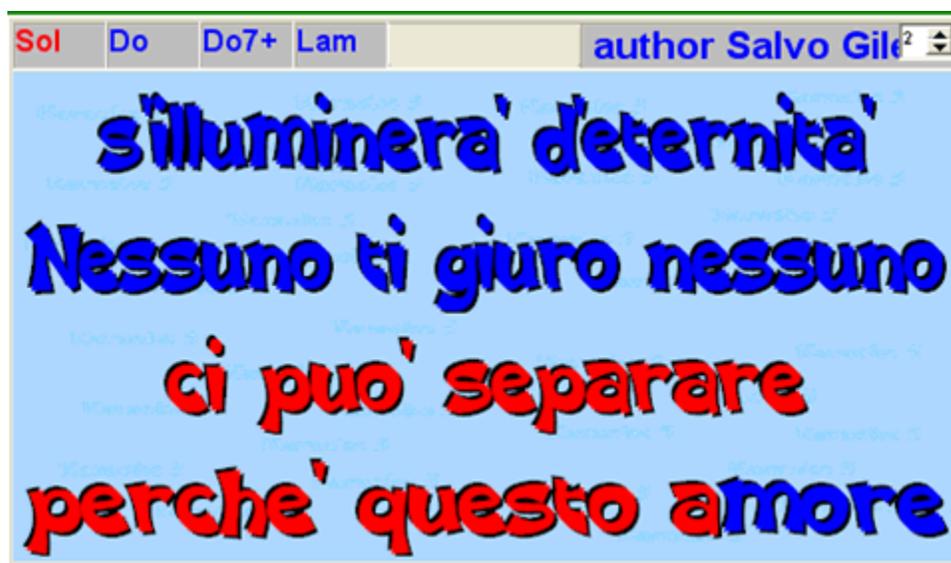
The Karaoke window is very intuitive.

At the very top there is the display of the CHORDS divided in four parts whereby the chord currently paying is shown in **RED** while the successive chords (useful for guitar or keyboard players) are shown in **BLUE**.

The chords are calculated automatically (but ONLY IN MIDI FILES) by the program and therefore displayed above the window where the text is displayed. It is possible to modify the size of the display area for the chords by changing the value of the field located at the far right and clicking on the up or down arrows. The available choices are from 1 to 9.

If a MIDI file is transposed, the display of the chords will also be in the new key and the display is therefore dependant on the key that is presently used.

This option is, naturally, only possible in Midi files while the display of the chords inserted manually in other formats will take place in the standard way i.e. in its original key.

THE MIXER
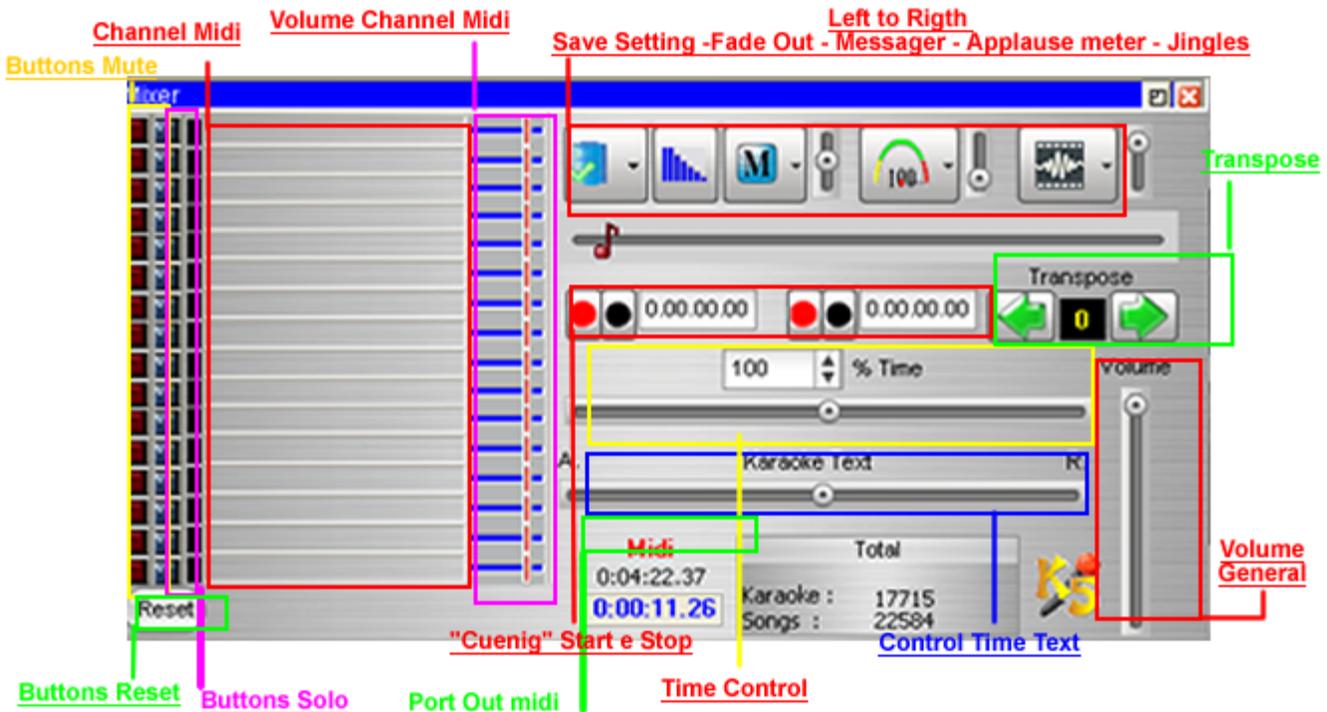
On the top right corner, directly above the TRANSPOSE button, there is the JINGLES SECTION button, a very charming function to increase the fun factor if you are among friends. It can also be modified to suit your clientele (more on this section later.
Immediately to the left there are three buttons: the APPLAUSE METER, the INSTANT MESSAGING and the FADE OUT.
To the left of the Fade out there is a button that allows saving, on the fly, the controls (Tone-Tempo-Volume) on your Primary list (K5 Database), Playlist or Singer schedule.

In the %TIME field, the tempo of the playback can be altered by either clicking on the down or up arrows located to the right, by placing the cursor in the field and moving the bar immediately below the field or pressing either the down or up arrows on the keyboard, using the CTRL+LEFT/RIGHT arrow combination or by just typing in the desired value directly in the field.

On the left side of the Mixer we find the visualization of the MIDI channels (for the Midi files, naturally). Clicking on the red button will light it up and mute that particular channel (i.e. move the Volume slider located on the right hand side to the zero position) and clicking on it again will bring it back to the original state.
Since channel 4 is usually associated with the melody it can be muted with the fast Alt+G combination. The channel will remain in the muted state until the sequence is repeated or is activated by clicking on the red button for channel 4.
The red Mute buttons are used to silence that particular track or channel while the black Solo buttons (which turn blue when activated) will turn all the other channels off leaving the selected soloed channels to play. Therefore multiple Midi channels can be muted or soloed.
Further down we have the Reset button used to reset all the volumes and soloed channels to the original state.
Finally, to the lower right we have the number of songs that are loaded in the K5 DATABASE and the ones set up for Karaoke as well as the Volume control, the Midi port and the total and partial time for the song that is currently playing.

CUEING

Another novelty is the presence of the double section for cueing, which can be used for a kind of re-mixing of the song currently playing. Clicking on the red button in either section will set the current location of the song as the position from which a Loop function will start. In fact, by pressing the red button again the song will start playing from the set position. The time indicator or counter located just to the right will show the position. The two sections are independent of each other. The black buttons are used to zero the corresponding counters.

THE JINGLES

Clicking on the down arrow for the JINGLES button will reveal the commands to select a list of "jingles" which is modifiable and can also personalized (in MP3 format) and, if desired, each sound file can be associated with an image (GIF format) which will appear in the center of the text screen for the duration of the sound jingle in execution. Additionally, video ad files (AVI, MPEG, WMV format) can be added so that they will play non-stop.

A typical example for the use of this feature would be using the "Applause" sound file and associating it with the GIF image that shows hands clapping but please indulge your whims and let your creativity soar.

The volume of the Jingle (button located immediately to the right of the Jingle icon) will not interfere with the volume of the song being played.

The Jingles section can be personalize through the Add/Modify Jingle under the Utility choice of the main menu bar.

INSTANT MESSAGGING

You can insert sentences that will be visible to all on the Karaoke windows.

First insert a message (example: Hello Everybody) in the window that appears after clicking on the down arrow on the M icon and on then on Insert Message.

To start the message, click on Play. The sliding bar on the right can control the speed of the scrolling of the message.

To hide the message click on Stop and to close the window, click on Exit.

THE APPLAUSE METER

Selecting the Applause Meter section (through the tachometer icon) will open another option that will increase the fun factor with your friends. In fact, clicking on the icon and on Show will place the tachometer in the text
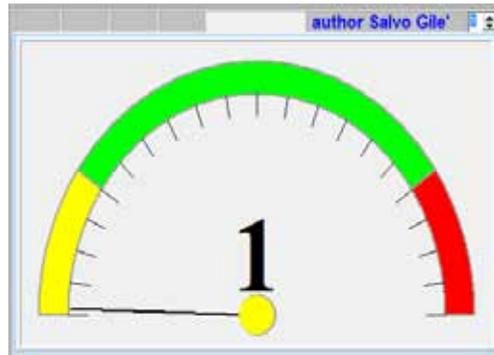
window showing values between 0 and 100. The Show, Start, Stop and Exit work the same way as for the Messaging.
The level associated to the Applause Meter is according to what your microphone will pickup.
To the right of the Applause meter there is bar with 4 positions.

By default it is set at 0 but setting it at 1, 2 or 3 will increase the output by respectively 10%, 20% or 30%. As an example by setting it at 2 if the registered volume was 60 the tachometer will display 72 [60 +12 (20% of 60)].

By using the CTRL+ directional arrows combination, the key or the speed of the current song can be modified:
CTRL+ LEFT/RIGHT arrows will change the speed of the current song.
CTRL+ UP/DOWN arrows will change the key of the current song.

4. The "PRIMARY FIELDS" (The K5 DATABASE)

The picture above shows the PRIMARY FIELDS, the heart of the K5 DATABASE, where the songs can be selected by various criteria (like by Author, Song, Path or Style), which are **absolutely flexible and adaptable to the user's needs.**
To find a song by AUTHOR, just click on the AUTHOR column heading (will turn RED) and type in the first letters of the author's name and the database will be displayed at the closest position to the letters you entered.

Searching by Song, Path or Style works in the exact same fashion.

At the very beginning in the "PATH" fields, you will see an icon just before the "path" used to identify the type of file according to the following picture:

The five icons (from left to right) correspond respectively to:
MIDI file with Karaoke text
MIDI file without Karaoke text
MP3 file with Karaoke text
MP3 file without Karaoke text
CDA or CDA+G file.

There are three methods to add songs to the database.
1. By going to menu bar and clicking on Record and then Add.
2. Through the Explorer window.
3. By going to the menu bar and clicking on Utility and then on Find and add Karaoke Files.

As a first time it is advised to use the third method i.e. by going to the menu bar and clicking on Utility and then on Find and add Karaoke Files.
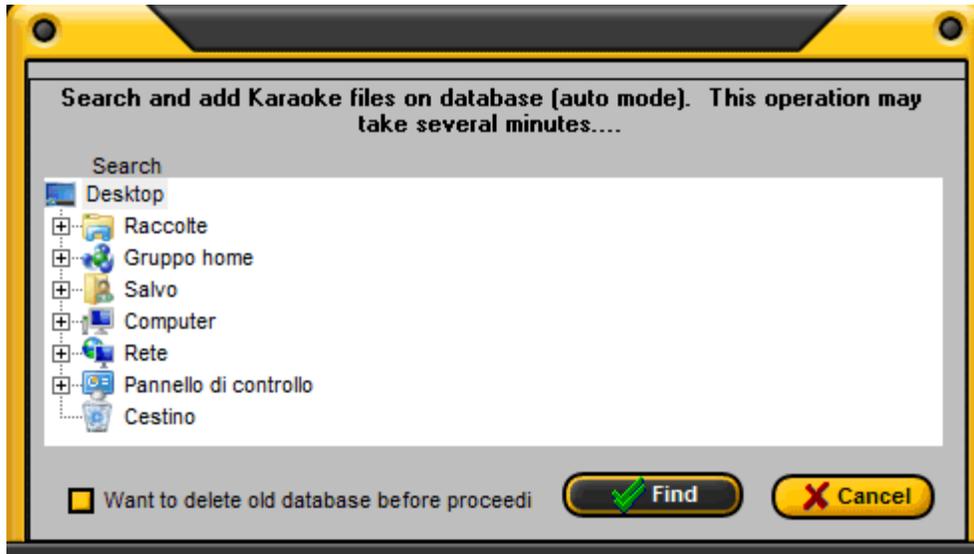
For example:
If you have all your songs in the folder C:/MUSICA

Like folder->
C:/Musica/Battisti
C:/Musica/Battisti/epensoate.mid
C:/Musica/Battisti/ioete.mid
folder ->
C:/Musica/Pooh
C:/Musica/Pooh/uomini soli.mid etc.....

First you will need to go to the Menu bar, click on "Utility", click on "Setup Drive" choose Drive C for the Drive Search field, type in MUSICA in the Directory field or navigate to the MUSICA folder by clicking on the eyeglasses icon, highlight it and click on OK.
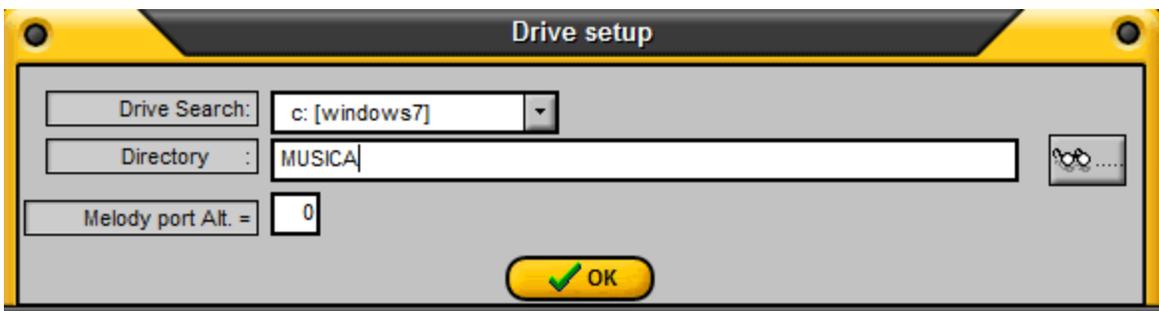
Then go back to **Find and add Karaoke Files,** position yourself on "C:/MUSICA"
Place a checkmark on "Want to delete database before proceeding" (if you want to erase all the records presently existing in the Primary Fields and therefore starting completely fresh) and click on "Find".
Wait till the end of the search when you will be asked to save the adding operation.
Click on "Yes" and you are done.

We will now add one or more songs by using a different method illustrated in the following picture. If the Explorer window is not visible or not the same as shown, press on F3 and then maximize it by clicking on the rectangle on the far top right.

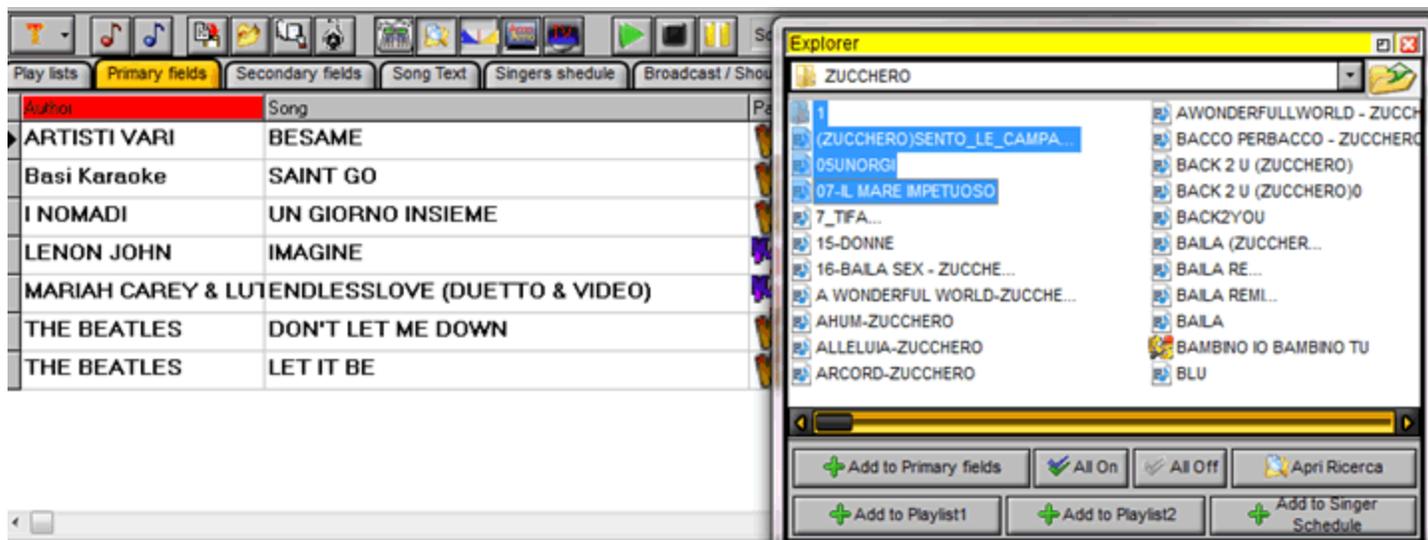

To add a song click on the "Add to Primary Fields" button.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, IN THE PROCESS OF ADDING A SONG TO THE DATABASE, THE PROGRAM WILL AUTOMATICALLY CREATE A DIRECTORY WITH THE NAME OF THE DIRECTORY FROM WHICH THE SONG WAS LOADED AND THEREFORE IT IS ADVISED TO LOAD SONGS AFTER THEY ARE PLACED IN A DIRECTORY WITH A NAME THAT WILL NOT GENERATE CONFUSION.

Eventually the newly added "record" in the DATABASE can be modified by clicking on it to highlight it in the Primary Fields window and pressing on the F6 key on the keyboard. You will then have the window illustrated in Picture **D.**

Picture **D**

For the information relative to the first field (AUTHOR) we will insert the name of the author (please try and keep this consistent for the various songs by the same author keeping in mind that variations like "The Beatles", "Beatles" or "Beatles, The" will create problems when sorting or searching for a song by that band.

The SONG field is obvious but, still, care should be taken that the song is named properly so that it can be easily searched for.

The "PATH 1" field is automatically filled if the insertion in the Database is done through the Playlist or with the option "Open File" the button located on the far right of the field.

For this reason it is better to keep all the files in one unique directory, even if in different folders and subfolders (in D: in C: or on an external Hard disk) so that the paths can be easily managed when doing successive additions for updates etc.

The LEVEL field is a personal preference field and is used to define the level of quality of the song with 1 being the lowest quality setting and 9 the highest. Please note that the value does neither add nor subtract anything to or from the quality of the song but, when more that one version of the same song is in the database, it can be used to establish which one is better preferred.

The TYPE field has three options: blank for songs that do not contain text, K for songs that contain synchronized text i.e. karaoke or *.KAR files and T for songs that contain text but is not synchronized.
If a song is added to the Database through the Playlist, the TYPE field is automatically filled with "K" if the song has text already set up internally.

The TONE field established the song's key or tonality (choose 0 to have the song play in its recorded key).

The STYLE field offers ample possibilities of personalization by the user. In fact, in addition to the extensive list available in the drop down menu it is possible to personalize it according to personal needs or likings (for example you can insert "Anthony" if the particular song is part of Anthony's repertoire and so forth). Additional styles can be added by modifying the *filtro.txt* located in the program installation folder (usually C:\Program Files\Karaoke5).

The PATH 2 and PATH 3 fields can be used if the song is available in different versions but you want it to show in **only one field** in the K5 Database in which case the different versions can be selected or loaded by either a right-click or a left-click.

The AUTHORS field is usefully for those who want to fill it with the song composer's name rather that the artist.

The SONG TIME % field allows the modification of the song's tempo.

The START (msec) field sets the song's start time specified in milliseconds.

The VOLUME SONG field allows the permanent modification (only for the selected song) of the song's volume. This function can be useful if there are songs with very different levels of loudness in which case this field can be used to make the levels more uniform so that the flow from one song to the other will not need to be adjusted with the mixer volume. The value is expressed in hundredths and therefore variable from **1** to **100**.

The VOLUME MIDI CHANNEL allows, for Midi files, setting permanent volume variations for each channel. The modifiable channels, if they exist in the Midi file, are 16 and can be accessed by scrolling up or down on the blue bar to the right of the field. The value can be set from 1 to 100.

Finally, the RIGHE (Rows) field allows a different display of the karaoke text for this specific song instead of the default one specified in the menu Setup Karaoke Text Window.

When all the modifications are done, click Ok to save the new file or "Annulla" to cancel. Furthermore, by right-clicking on the file in the Primary Fields window you can choose if you want to add the file to Playlist1, Playlist2 or in the Singer Schedule List.

 Lastly, the FILTER X button located on the right hand corner will let you filter the database by style (i.e. selecting Rock from the style menu will only list the songs in the Rock style).

Again, additional styles can be added by modifying the *filtro.txt* file located in the program installation folder (usually C:\Program Files\Karaoke5) with side button.

UPPER BUTTONS BAR

The First Three Buttons

The orange capital T **(Button 1)** gives you the opportunity to sort all the songs in the Primary Fields. By first clicking on the down arrow on the right and then choosing the letter T all the songs will be shown. Choosing the letter K will show all songs with synchronized text (i.e. Karaoke songs) and the letter N will show all the newly inserted songs. Under Utility in the menu bar there is a command called "Zeroing new added songs". Running that command will zero the N function.

Selecting the icon with the red note **(Button 2)** will show only the Midi files while selecting the icon with the blue note **(Button 3)** will show only the MP3 files. These two buttons can be used in conjunction with the button 1.

EXPORT AND SEARCH BUTTONS

The Export Karaoke Text file button (No. 4) will let you export a text file in txt format (with and without chords) to a location of your choosing for the eventual visualization.

Selecting the option EXPORT CHORD, the related chords for each row will be displayed in the text file. Removing the checkmark for the option will export only the text as it is displayed on the screen.

Button no. 5 will let you open a MIDI, Kar, KFN, Mp3, WMA, **Mp3+G, CDG or CD+G** file located in any folder or directory on your PC. Pressing F8 can also activate this function.

Button no. 6 will allow you to view the content of text files and more through a preview that will be shown in the window to the right.

Button no 7 is used to block or unblock the text in the text window.

Buttons 8, 9 10, 11 and 12 will allow opening or closing of the Mixer, Explorer, Mixing Control, Karaoke Text display and the Karaoke TV windows.

Buttons 13, 14 and 15 are for playing, stopping or pausing the current selected song.

5. The Singers' Schedule

The Singers' schedule is like a Playlist for the singers and is very useful when organizing a karaoke event with the various singers that will be performing. It is made up of a grid with the columns for Ordine (Order of performance), Nome Artista (Performer's Name), Song, Tone (key chosen by the performer), Note (anything you want) and Messaggio (Message) that can be inserted to replace the default one set at Utility>Setup Karaoke Text Window.

Regarding this playlist, there is a checkbox for "Instant messaging" and a button for "Show message". Enabling "Show message" and placing a checkmark on "Auto Play" will display the name of the next performer in a new window in the upper section of the Karaoke window.
To force the display of the message, click on "Show message".

In order to display the message for the 2ⁿᵈ performer you will need to insert number 1 in the "Sort play order" field. For example: if in the "Sort play order" field there is number 1 and therefore the second performer Susan is presently singing the song "Don't let. .." in the message will display "Prossimo Artista -> Susan" (Next Performer ->Susan).

The performers' order can be altered directly on the "Ordine" (Order) column. If a 0 is inserted in the "Sort play order" field the schedule will be reset and the next song that will play will be number 1.
As far as the rest of the buttons are concerned, they have the same function as in the Playlist section.
Finally the messages displayed can be stopped from the Message button in the Mixer section by choosing "Stop" or "Exit".

6. Broadcast / Shoutcast / Chat

This feature will let you transmit or receive in streaming format on the Internet.
What is it used for? This technology will let you broadcast your performance from your computer over the Internet and have a large audience.
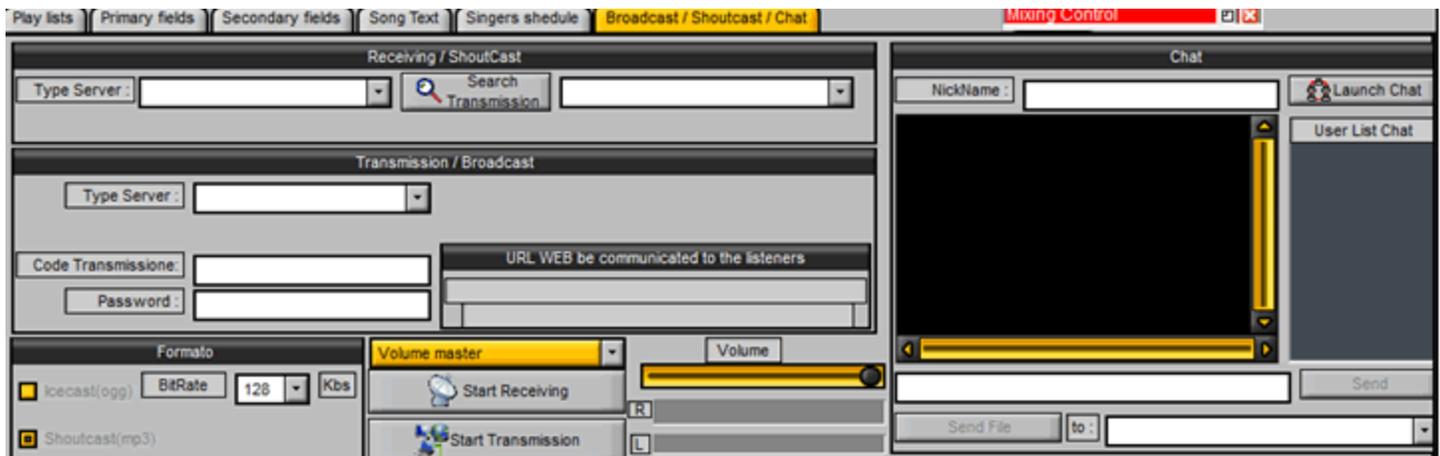
You can organize an event and broadcast it live to a large audience over the Internet.
But let's move on to the explanation of the procedure.

Firs of all transmissions and receptions can be customized/personalized and therefore you can use your server to listen to your favourite radio station directly with Karaoke5.

In the Reception "Type Server" field choose "Custom" and insert the parameters: insert the link that points to the server that is transmitting on Shoutcast or Icecast (for example: "95.110.224.36:8057/miofile.ogg.m3u".
Click on "Start Receiving".
Remember that normally the Shoutcast reception has no extension while Icecast has the ".ogg.m3u" extension.

In the Transmission "Type Server" field choose "Custom" and insert the parameters: insert the link that points to the Shoutcast or Icecast server (for example: "95.110.224.36:8057/miofile.ogg".
Remember that normally the Shoutcast reception has no extension while Icecast has the ".ogg" extension.
Insert the password for your server and the chosen format (Icecast or Shoutcast) and your server's Bitrate.
Click on the "Start Transmission" button.

Now we will move on to receiving or transmitting through karaoke5 Server with the protocol ICECAST 2.
In the Reception "Type Server" field choose "Karaoke 5 Live (128K)" and then insert the parameters pointing to the streaming server streaming (for example: "95.110.224.36:8057/ice39000.ogg.m3u" or click on the "Search Transmission" button to search all those transmitting in that particular moment with the Karaoke5 server with a valid "Transmission Code".
Choose your transmission from the available list beside the previous button and then click on "Start Receiving".

In the Transmission "Type Server" field, choose "Karaoke 5 Live (128K)" and insert the parameters: here there are two choices:
1) Without transmission code.
2) With transmission code and relative Password.

For the first choice i.e. without transmission code you can click directly on the "Start Transmission" button. At this point you are transmitting all over the world.

Make note of the address from which you are transmitting and give it to your listeners for the reception. The limitations in this first instance are: **Maximum number of listeners 3 and transmission at 48 Kbs.**

For the second choice i.e. with transmission code you must insert the "Transmission Code" and the relative password. Finally click on the "Start Transmission" button.

At this point you are transmitting all over the world. The advantages to having a transmission code are: **No limits to the number of listeners and transmission at 128 Kbs.**

Furthermore those who transmit with a code will have their name listed in the Karaoke5 program (in the reception section by clicking on "Search Transmission" and in the forum portal by clicking on the 'image "Karaoke5 Shoutcast".

The transmission code can be obtained at Karaoke5 Forum by asking for it from the Administrator and specifying the date and time when your broadcast will start and end.

The link for the forum is http://www.karaoke5.com/forum/.

To the side of the buttons there is a Combo box, which will let you choose the source of your audio when you are transmitting like "Stereo Mix" or "Microphone" etc.. with the related volume Slider to let you control the output.

Lastly, on the right hand side there is the Chat section, which will let you communicate as you are transmitting or receiving with the possibility to send or receive files instantly with a click on the "Send File" button.
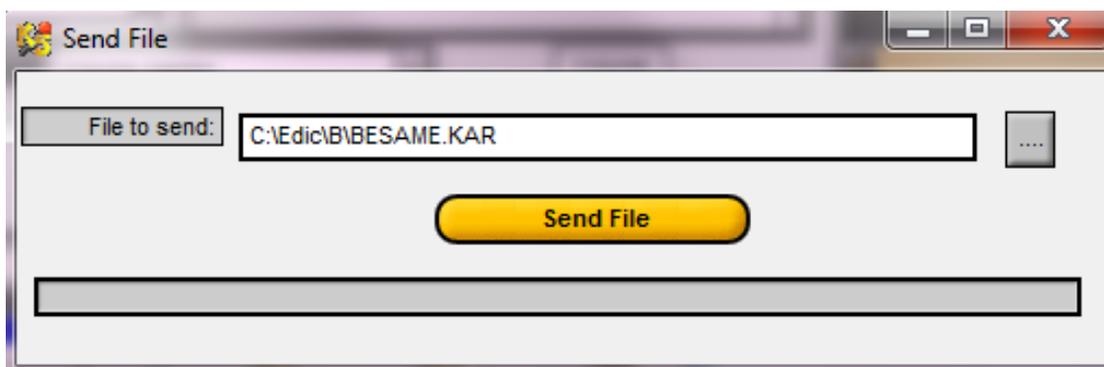
7. The Menu Bar

The KARAOKE5 program has a menu bar (at the top left hand corner), which allows several interesting options. Let's take a look at them.

a. **FILE**

- Exit (to close the program)

b. **RECORD**

- Play or pressing the F12 key will start playing the song selected in the DATABASE
- Stop or pressing F11 will stop the song currently playing.
- Pause or pressing F10 will place the playback on pause; Pressing F10 again will resume it.
- Melody trace On/Off *(obviously a spelling mistake: trace should be track)* or pressing ALT+G will mute the melody track (i.e. place the volume at zero). Naturally this will only work for Midi or Kar files. By doing this, the next song will start with a muted melody track (typically the fourth) and will stay muted unless you click on Alt+G again or on the red square for track 4 in the Mixer section.
- Add will open the dialog window to add a new field in the database. (Compare what was said regarding the F6 key in the Primary Fields section)
- Modify or pressing F6 opens the dialog window to modify any selected record in the Primary fields section.
- Delete record is to delete any selected record in the Primary fields section. This command will remove the record completely but only in the list, the actual file will still be on your hard drive and can be re-inserted using the methods discussed earlier. A group of records can be deleted by holding Shift while clicking on the various records.
-
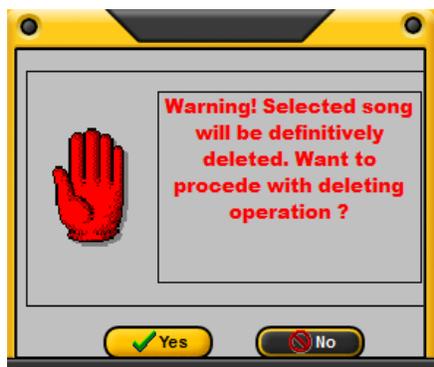
- Find or pressing F9 is an important function. It will let you search for a song in your K5 database based on what you enter in the Search field. The search will be conducted in the Author, Song, Path and Style fields.

c. **PRINT**

- Songs Database will open the dialog window where you can print your K5 Database sorted by Author, song or Style.
- Database Print Editor will let you create new templates to print your database according to your needs. (This is for those who use the program professionally.

d. **COMMAND**

- command by AUTORE (ALT+A) is to order the primary fields by Author
- command by CANZONE (ALT+A) is to order the primary fields by Song
- command by CARTELLA1 (ALT+P) is to order the primary fields by Path 1
- command by GENERE (ALT+E) is to order the primary fields by Style

e. **UTILITY**

Setup Hardware	
Setup Karaoke Text Window	
Setup drive	
Find and add Karaoke files	
Zeroing new added songs	
Export Karaoke text file	
Add/Modify Jingle	
Reset Midi	
Reset Volume	
Editor VST Chanel 1	
Editor VST Chanel 2	
Panic	F4
Backup / Restore	
Import song list from Excel	
Language	
Skin	▶
Open / Close Karaoke-TV window	
Show Karaoke default window	F7
Open / Close Mixer window	F5
Open / Close Mixing function window	F2
Open / Close Explorer window	F3

Setup Hardware

- **Port instrument** field is to set the output that will play the Midi signals (the default is the Karaoke5 virtual instruments). The Karaoke5 virtual instruments are 256 standard GM2.
  An internal or external midi port can be chosen, or even an external VSTi plugin if you load the proper reference DLL.
  N.B.!!! THE K5 VIRTUAL INSTRUMENTS CAN ONLY BE USED WITH THE FREE RECHARGE OR WITH THE PAID UNLOCKING CODE.
- **Output device** is to identify the output of the MIDI signal when at "Port instrument" was chosen the "MIDI" option; it's advised to leave "Midi Mapper Windows" and make the change from the Windows Control Panel in "Sounds and Audio Devices" where you can choose the Midi module in the Audio tab.
- **Input device** is to identify the MIDI input to allow you to connect a Midi instrument to the Midi input of your sound card.
- **File DLL VST** is the DLL library when on "Port instrument" the "VSTi Plugin" was chosen.
- **By default Karaoke5 manages 902 instruments of the Roland SC88PRO module with the "MIDI" Instruments port and 256 instruments of the GM2 module with "K5 Instrument" instrument port** however more instruments can be added by pressing on the button "Add Instruments".
- **Latency** (ms) "Hardware (mp3)" and "K5 – Vst Plugin" identifies and sets the latency of your sound card.
 As an optimal setting it is advised to set it at 11, then click on "Test latency" and finally increase the latency a bit at a time until the sound is clean and clear. The latency configurations between the MP3 files and the Midi files are independent of each other.
  If you are using ASIO, you can test it by playing a Midi song with "K5 Instrument" and ensure that the Asio4ALL icon on the lower right corner of the taskbar does not go in the red. If it does, increase the number by 50ms. In the majority of cases a latency of 256 to 512 should work fine. Clicking on "Editor Asio" can also configure the selected ASIO driver.
- **Start from first note** gives the instruction to the program to play the Midi file from the first note.
  Note that on K5 instrument this option is disabled.
- **Crossfade Length** regulates the setting of the time it will take to "Cross-fade" from one song to the other, expressed in milliseconds; a typical value is 5000 (5 seconds)
  Reset MIDI lets you establish which "device" should be re-set in case of problems with the PANIC button.

SETUP KARAOKE TEXT WINDOW
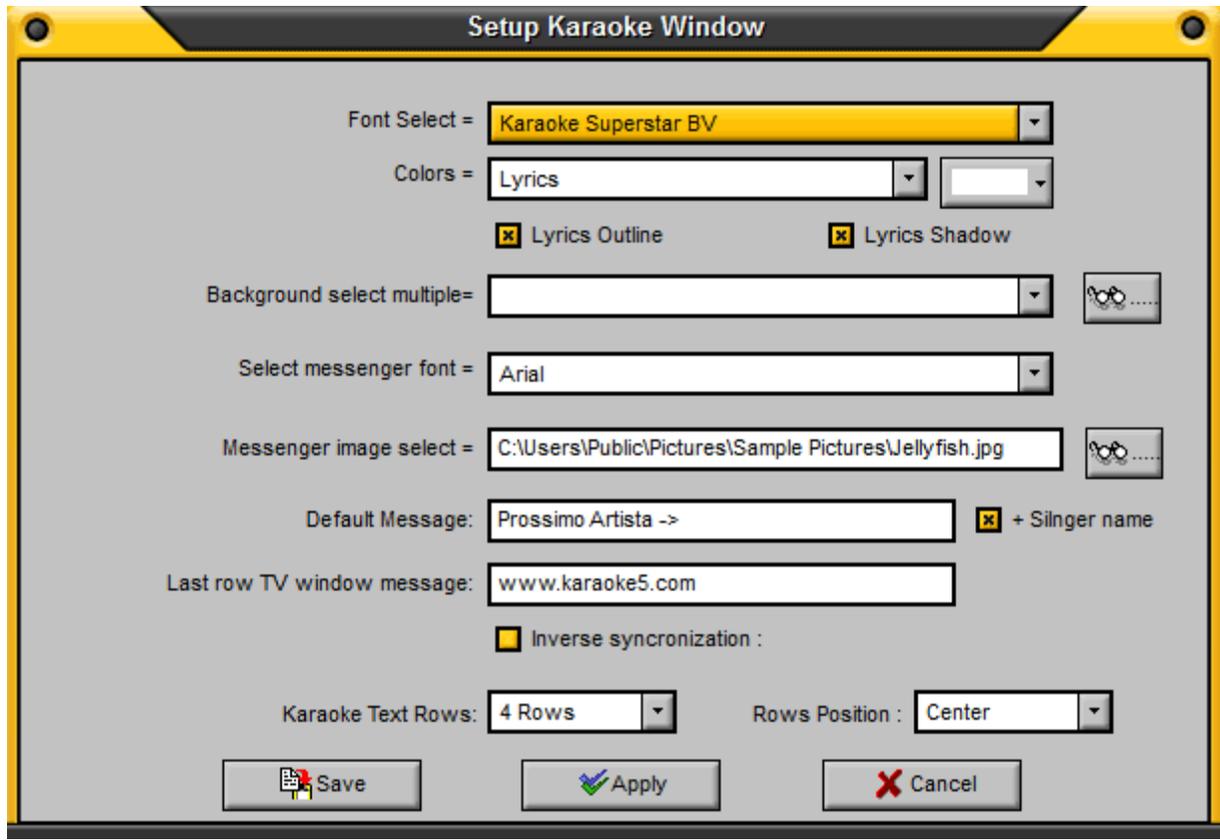
- **Font Select** allows the modification of the type of font that will be displayed in the Text window.
- **Colors** will let you set the colors for the text, the sung text, the border etc.
- **Lyrics Outline** allows the setting of the color of the outline of the font selected.
- **Lyrics Shadow** allows the setting of the shadow of the outline of the font selected. *If this option causes problems with the display of the text, disable it.*
- **Background select multiple** will let you insert, as a background, images or videos, GIF animations or a video source like a video camera or a webcam, which will rotate sequentially.
- **Select messenger font** lets you modify the type of font that will be displayed in the message window.
- **Messenger image select** lets you select a background image for the frame of the instant message window.
- **Default Message+Nome Artista** is the default message that will appear for the Singers' schedule when the "Show Message" button is pressed or in the auto mode with the option "Autoplay" enabled; furthermore, the name of the performer can be disabled to video. For example -> Next Performer -> Elvis Lennon.
- **Last row TV window Message** is the message that will be displayed at the end of the song on the 4th row of the TV window. The default is "www.karaoke5.com".
- **Inverse Synchronization** offers the possibility, on the synchronization function, to choose the synchronization to "Highlight".
- **Karaoke Text Row** By default it's 4 rows per entire window. To have only 2 rows alternating choose the "2 Rows".
- **Rows Position**: With the 2 Rows option, the position of the text in the window can be chosen. The choices are Top, Centre or Bottom.

Setup Drive
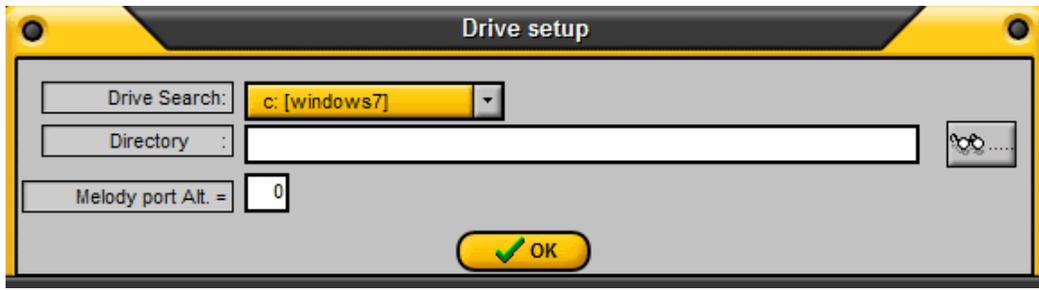
As pointed out, the Setup Drive will let you set the Drive and the Directory from which the Database will load the information relative to the path. This option will make your database more efficient, indexing the search to a more restricted area.

 Find and add Karaoke files
is the option that allows the direct addition of the Karaoke files to the K5 Database from their location on your PC. This is optimal for neophytes but is not advised to those who want to organize their K5 database in a more ordered and efficient manner. The option will search and add the files automatically but then it will be necessary to modify the various fields to render them more adaptable to the needed functionalities for the correct management of the song files.

 Zeroing new added songs
This function will let you set to zero the new songs counter (typically, the last song that were added to the K5 database). Zeroing this counter after every song addition will help establish which ones were the songs that were added in the last song addition.

Export Karaoke text file
This option allows you to export the text of a .KAR file or a file that contains text to a directory on your PC in .txt. The file will contain the address to where the file is located.

Add/Modify Jingle"
This lets you manage your Jingles in an easy and efficient manner.
In fact, all you need to do is add new records or delete the old ones to organize your repertoire of applauses, laughs, bells and everything that your fantasy can create. The Descrizione (description) column will correspond to what will be displayed in the Jingle menu that you will open in the Mixer section while the Percorso (Path) Jingle Audio and Percorso Jingle Video columns will indicate the location on your PC where the MP3 sound and GIF images files are stored. The chosen directory by "default" by the program is the one already visible, but you can change it to any location you want. Furthermore, by placing a checkmark under the column entitled "Ripeti" (Repeat) you can choose to play the jingles in a continuous way, that is when it reaches the end it will start again from the top.
Make sure you click on Save and Close buttons to make the changes effective.

Reset Midi
In the event there is a problem and a Midi file gets blocked, this option will set the mapper to zero, allowing you to get an intelligent signal while you are playing the selected file.

Reset Volume
Same as Reset Midi except it applies to the volumes of the Midi file being played.

PANIC
Also available by pressing F4 and on the Reset button in the Mixer section. This function will zero the Midi and volume controls and therefore bring stability to the system.

Backup/Restore
This function will let you create a backup and eventually restore your K5 database. Basically, it will copy all the *.Str files located in the Karaoke5 installation folder in a single compressed file which you can, if needed, decompress and restore to the original location. Of course, the restore function will do it for you automatically.

Import Song list from Excel
 A very useful function if you have songs already organized in directories and you have the means to extract the paths with a File Manager. By converting your list in Excel (by importing a file in txt format, an operation that Excel easily accomplishes) this function will let you create your K5 DATABASE with a few simple mouse clicks. Please pay careful attention to the paths: if they are not correlated and indicated exactly you will not get a proper import.

Language
The default will be the language you choose during the program installation. Esperanto is not yet available.

Skin
With this function you can choose to display the program with the various available skins.

Open/Close Karaoke–TV window
This option allows you to have an additional text screen to send to second monitor or to a projector. Please consult your PC manual or your video card to find out how to obtain an extension of your desktop.

Show Karaoke default window (F7)
 Opens and closes the text window.

Open/Close Mixer window (F5)
Minimizes and restores the MIXER.

Open/Close mixing function window (F2)
Opens and closes the "MIXING CONTROL", a convenient and innovative system to cross from one song to another.

Open/Close Explorer window (F3)
Opens, minimizes and restores the Explorer window.

f. **INSTRUMENTS**

Create/Modify Karaoke
- This is the menu dedicated to the synchronization and will be explained in detail in its own section.
- **To create or modify a Karaoke file you will need either that the value of the level of Recharge (free) is greater than zero, or that the program has been unlocked with a paid code.**

Express Midi Arranger
- Is the menu dedicated to the arrangement of the Midi files and to the creation of backing track files (MIRRORMAKER function) and will also be explained in a separate section.

g. **INFORMATION**
- *Recharge or Program registration* **allows** the purchase of the unlocking code or the insertion of the free recharge code for the program.
- *Help* opens the PDF format file with Karaoke 5 manual (you are reading it), an excellent help for the user.
- *Information* displays the company's details for contact information (physical address & phone number, web address and e-mail address.

6. The EXPLORER window

The Explorer feature is very important and intuitive.
From the Explorer window you can drag the files to the various grids (Primary fields, Playlists or Singer Schedule) or you can highlight the file and click on the corresponding ADD buttons.
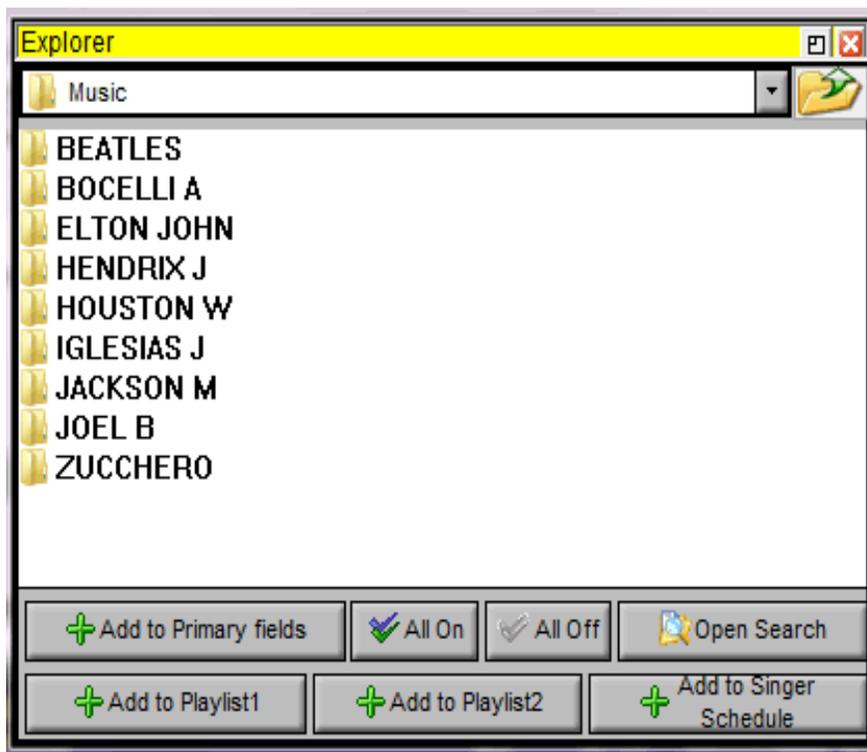
In the Explorer window, clicking on "Open Search" will open the window from which all the Karaoke files can be searched.

This is an important function for those who do not want to use the K5 Database/Primary fields or the Playlist, even if this practice is not advised.

All that is needed is choosing the folder where the search is to be conducted and the program will search for the word you typed in the folder and its subfolders.

From the Explorer window you can drag the files to the various grids (Primary fields, Playlists or Singer Schedule) or you can highlight the file and click on the corresponding ADD buttons.

7. MIXING CONTROL
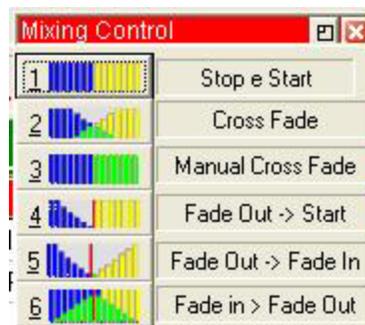
How many times has it happened to you that you wanted to stop a song (perhaps a bit to long or you simply do not want to continue singing it) and move to the next one?

With the introduction of the Mixing Control window in version 29 this became possible and entertaining.

The Mixing Control window, in addition to being active or disabled according to the user's wishes (see Menu/Options), it allows a variety of ways to cross from one song to the other.

In the "Recharge" version with the level at "0" only the first two choices are active (Stop/Start and Cross Fade)

A program recharge (free at www.karaoke5.com/forum) or a paid unlocking code will activate all the possibilities.

The MIXING Control is easy to use and intuitive: While the song is being played press on the F12 key and the Mixing Control window and an additional F12 press will expand it to show 6 options.
To choose an option, just click on its correspondent number:

- **1 Stop/Start** stops the current song and starts the next one.

- **2 Cross Fade** fades out the current song and fades in the next one. The fade in and fade out time can be set by the user by going to Utility>Setup Hardware

- **3 Manual Cross Fade** when this is chosen there will be a bar opened on the right side. Use the MOUSE to drag it towards the left to get a manual Cross Fade. At the end of the operation left-click on "Stop In" or press on the Enter key to stop the songs that by now is inaudible.

- **4 Fade Out/Start** In this option it is possible to end a song by fading it out. The green "Start" that will appear in the field means that, at any time, **clicking again on button 4** or the Enter key, the next song will immediately start.

- **5 Fade Out/Fade In** with this option the preceding song will end by fading out and the successive one will fade in at he end of the previous one.

- **6 Fade In/Fade Out** with this option the user manually determines Fade In and Fade Out times. With the first pressing of button 6, after F12, the next song will start by fading to the maximum volume while an additional pressing of button 6 will determine the end of the previous song fading it out.

The key of the next song, selected with the F6, normally is respected (in the crossing from one song to the other if the latter foresees a change of the transposition by 2 semitones, up or down). This should take place in a regular manner. It is possible that some songs will not behave as expected and therefore it would be better to do a manual start of the next song.

CAUTION!! MIXING TWO MIDI FILES IS ONLY ACCEPTABLE WITH THE "K5 INSTRUMENT" PORT OR "VST PLUGINS" while with your computer default port the quality will be poor.

8. The Synchronization

Another very important Karaoke5 function is to be able to add text, modify it or correct it in a very easy manner and without the need of complicated technical knowledge.
One can easily affirm that Karaoke5 is the only player freeware program that offers this opportunity.
SYNCHRONIZATION can bee done only when the program has the value of the level of Recharge (free at www.karaoke5.com/forum**) greater than zero, or when the program has been unlocked with a paid code.**

Synchronizing with Karaoke5 can be an entertaining and fascinating experience and you can amuse yourself by creating charming parodies by simply modifying the text of your favourite songs.

It's important to specify that the synchronization system in Karaoke5 utilizes a visual user interface; in fact, the user can be aware of the state of the synchronization by way of a **"Black Syllable"**, i.e. of a word or part of a word that is highlighted on a black background or vice versa in the "Highlighted" synchronization. That word or part of that word **represents** the word or part of word that **is to be synchronized**. This might not seem too intuitive but once you get used to it you will have a better idea of "where you are" during the synchronization process. A successful synchronization often depends on the attention that is given to that "syllable".

MP3 files can be saved in a FORMAT, which other devices (like Midjay, Ketron, etc.) can read.

In the picture below you can see that the synchronization window has 12 buttons, which we will now look at. (From left to right and from top to bottom)
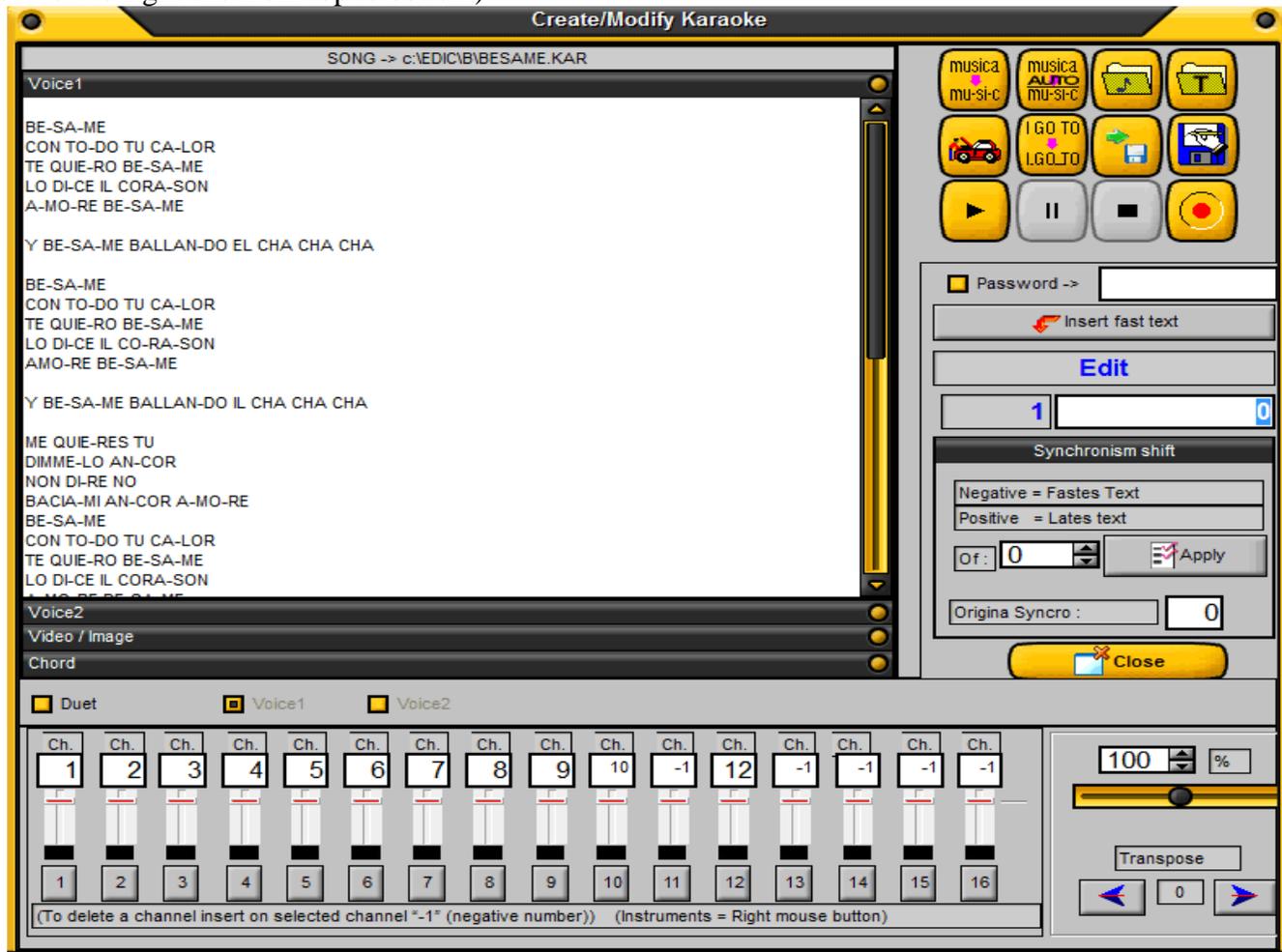
First row

Button 1 (Mus-ic) – Syllabification (Hyphenation)
Is used to divide the words of a text into syllables that will make the synchronization of the song more fluent. In fact, its is a lot easier to read a word that respects the way it is being sung and that follows the tempo and the pauses anticipated.

Button 2 (Auto Mus-ic) – Auto Syllabification
Could be convenient when synchronizing a song in the Midi format. In fact, this function allows the use as a guide tack one of the Midi tracks (typically the melody track usually on track 4), which should have the same cadence as what is to be sung. Unfortunately, experience proves that it is not easy to find Midi files that have the 4ᵗʰ track faithful to the syllabification of the text. The advice is to not rely on this function and opt for the use on the manual synchronization.

Button 3 (Folder with note) – Open MIDI file
With this button you can open a song file to modify, selecting it from a path if it was not previously opened directly from the Primary fields, from the Playlist or from the Singer schedule.
Button 4 (Folder with T) – Open text file
If your song file does not have text and you have one saved in a txt file you can load it with this button and, once opened, it will be automatically displayed (not syllabified or hyphenated) in the synchronization window. You can also insert the text with the cut and paste method by using the Ctrl+V key combination.

Second row

Button 5 (Looking under the hood) – Debug Synchro
This debug function is used to see the details of the synchronization. We can directly insert the time in milliseconds on the synchronization and also modify the text already synchronized. With this option you can correct the little flaws to obtain a perfectly synchronized work.
Please note that the numbers on the right, for the Midi files, represent the beats and, for the MP3 files represent the time elapsed from the beginning of the song in milliseconds (including any silence at the very beginning). As an example 3000 means 3 seconds, 18000=18 seconds, 86000=86 seconds or 1 minute and 26 seconds and so forth.
For files synchronized and saved as "MP3 Karaoke5" the time expression in milliseconds stands also for the fractions of the second (i.e. 16340 = 16 seconds e 340 milliseconds) while for files synchronized and saved as "Lyrics3" the time indication will still be in milliseconds but the time will be displayed only in whole seconds (1000, 4000, 12000).
The phrase "--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---" (translates to Start Next Row) is there to identify a return to the beginning of the row.

Button 6 (I.Go_To) – Syllabification or Hyphenation
Is used to insert an underscore "_" and make it so that the synchronization takes place by **Rows** instead of syllables.

Button 7 (Green arrow with blue disk) – Transfer
Used to transfer the synchronization loaded in the memory to an existing file. The synchronization to be transferred can be transferred either in a Midi file or in an MP3 file.

Button 8 (Blue disk icon) – Save as
Saves the file. You have the option to save (for the MP3 format) as if "MP3 Karaoke5" or in as "MP3 Lyrics3" which can be read by players like Midjay, Ketron, OkyWeb etc.
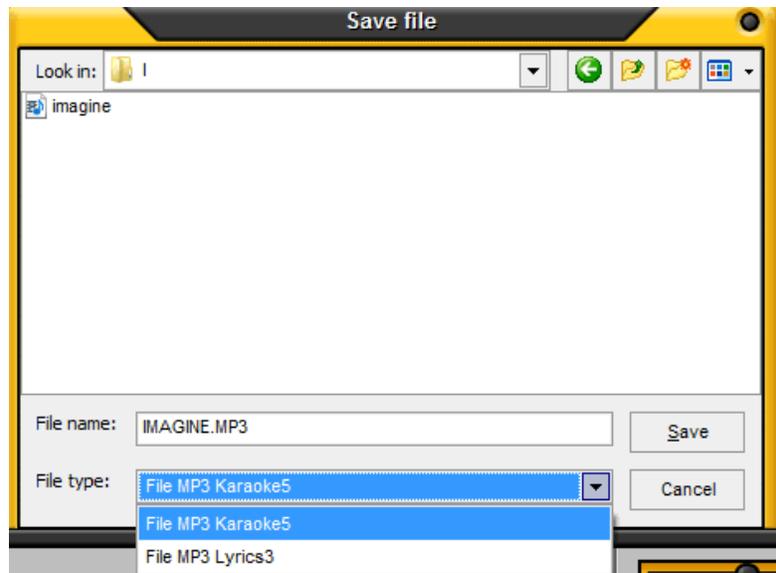
Obviously for those that use Karaoke5 exclusively it is a lot more convenient to save as MP3 Karaoke5 format because it is the dedicated format and the text will flow in a more fluid fashion and with more precision compared to the MP3 Lyrics 3 format.
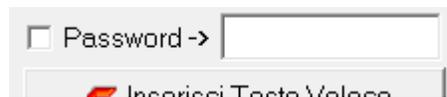
An important function is saving files with a password.
To protect your files from being modified by other synchronizers place a checkmark in the box in front of Password and insert your chosen password.
MIDI, KAR or MP3 files can be protected.
Caution!!! By inserting a password the text display will work in Karaoke5 ver. 34 and up.

Third row

Button 9 – Play
Lets you see the flow of the text to check if it is exact.

Button 10 – Pause
This button lets you, temporarily, stop/pause the display and the flow. Clicking on it again will resume from where it was paused. Pressing the Pause button during the recording stops the recording. To resume the synchronization after a pause, proceed in the following fashion: Click on the **Play** button (**Play/Edita** will appear) and immediately after press on the **Spacebar** (the synchronization will be placed on Pause). Position the cursor at the beginning (with the directional arrows on the keyboard) and press on **Enter** on the keyboard (**Punch In** will appear).

Scrolling with the down arrow to the row from which the synchronization needs to be resumed it is possible to hear the "advancing" of the song till the desired position. In this fashion you can synchronize from the point where synchronization was interrupted. An additional pressing of the **Spacebar will place** the synchro in pause and to resume press on the Spacebar once again. At every pause the song will restart from the top (without touching the synchronization) and it is up to the user to move from row to row with the up/down arrow to reach the desired position. To exit from the **Punch In** mode, press on the End key on the keyboard.

Button 11 – Stop
Stops the reproduction or the recording of the song.

Button 12 – Record
Clicking on this button will start the playback of the song. It is up to the user to synchronize the lyrics to the music by pressing the Enter key where the words or syllables match the music. The Enter key is only pressed the first time i.e. when there is no synchronization present but to modify an already synchronized file the Play button is used. Pressing the Stop button will interrupt the synchronization.

"Insert fast Text" button lets you insert a word or phrase directly at the cursor position. Clicking on the button will open a window where the text can be typed in and then hyphenated by clicking on the middle button before clicking on the Insert button on the left and insert the new text where the cursor is located.

The fields under **EDITA** indicate, numerically by syllable and by beats or time, the synchronization points, with the same rules defined earlier for the Midi files and for the Mp3 files.

SYNCHRONISM SHIFT Did you notice that your entire text is slightly late or early? No problem! By applying a value in the Synchronism shift window you will be able to correct this little flaw. By inserting a number pre-ceded by a "-" (minus) sign (Negative position) the texts will change color earlier if before it was late compared to the actual song position. Inserting a positive number will cause the inverse. The indicator of the "Origina Synchro" will let you know on the changes effected.
Click on the **Apply** button to make the changes effective.

MIDI CHANNELS You can also change the volumes of the Midi channels, invert their positions or eliminate them entirely. By inserting a "-1" in the channel number field, the channel will be eliminated. The slider will let you change the volume for the track and right clicking on the track number will let you assign a different instrument to the track.

BITRATE The Bitrate field is displayed only when MP3 files are loaded. Before saving the file insert the chosen bitrate. For optimal quality (at CD level) do not go lower than 128Kbps.

TEMPO Field The original tempo is 100%; anything over 100% will increase the speed of the song and below 100% will slow it down.

TRANSPOSE Field The use of the transpose function is not advised. Usually Midi or MP3 files are saved in their original key and in order to play them back in a different key all you have to do is set the transposing in the Mixer section or when they are placed in the Primary fields or Playlists through the Modify record function available with F6.

The pane where the text is displayed contains four bars titled Voice1, Voice2, Video/Image and Chord. At the far right of those bars there are down arrows.
Clicking on those arrows will open their respective windows. The Voice2 bar must first be made active by placing a check mark on the "Duet" box.

Voice1

(MEN)-
My love,
There's only you in my life
The only thing that's right
And i
I want to share
All my love with you
No one else will do...
Your eyes, your eyes
They tell me how much you care
Ooh yes, you will always be
My endless love
Two hearts

Voice2

Oooh-woow
do do do do do
do do do do do
do do doo doo
Oooh, and love
I'll be that fool
For you,
I'm sure
That You know I don't mind
And, YES
You'll be the only one
Cause no one no one can deny
This love I have inside

Video / Image

Chord

☒ Duet   ☐ Voice1   ☐ Voice2

Chords window
This window is used to insert the chords for the song (usually for some Midi files) that will be displayed in the upper section of the text window. Please note that the representation of the chords follows the English system A, B, C etc.). The chords insertion can also be performed in MP3 files.

"Insert time" button lets you bring the counter to zero and insert a new time for the display. The chord insertion or the missed chord insertion does not modify the text synchronization.

Chord

Index	Chord	Synchro
2	Em7	32
3	F#m	40
4	F#m7	44
5	Em7	48
6	F#m7	56
7	D	64
8	F#m	72

⟶ Insert Time

✕ Delete Chord
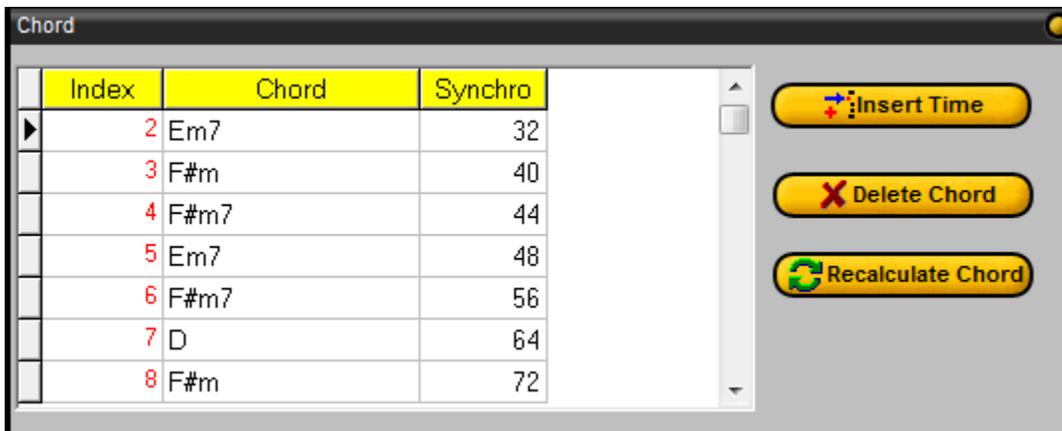
⟳ Recalculate Chord

The "Recalculate Chord" button allows the program to recalculate the chords. If no chords are inserted in the Midi files the program will calculate them automatically.

Video/Image window

This window allows the insertion of a video or image to create a dynamic background for your karaoke file. To insert images you will need to add the same amount of row as the number of images you will be inserting while for the video one row is suggested.

The path for the image or video (**which must be in the root directory**) is inserted in the middle column by using the familiar browse button. After inserting the file you can click on the box to the right to insert the time (expressed in milliseconds) where you would like the image to appear as a background. For the videos the time value should be zero.
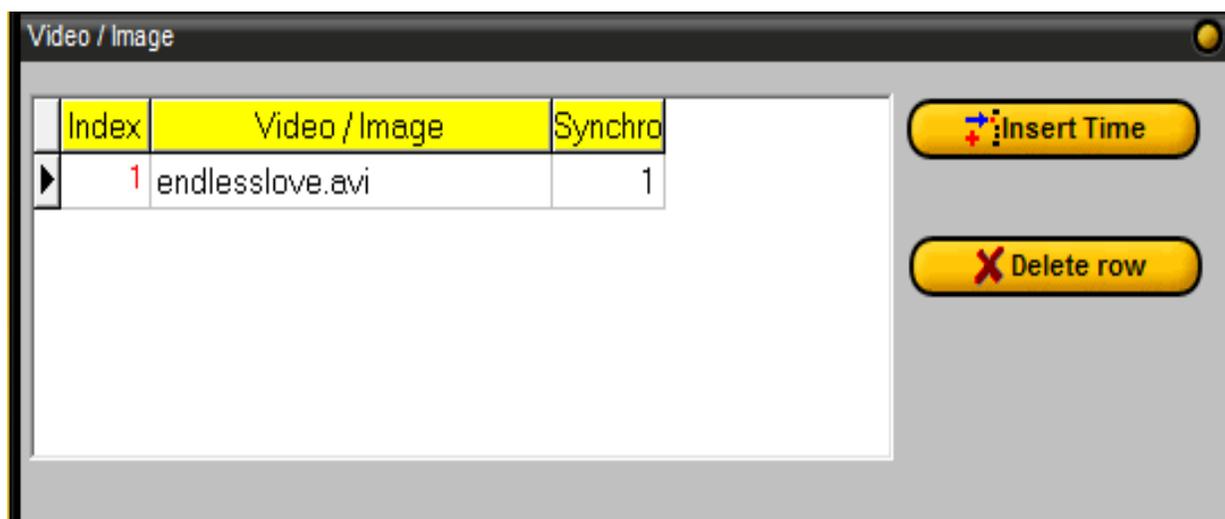
Even in this case the time display for the files saved in Mp3 Karaoke5 or MIDI format will be in milliseconds (including fractional amounts), while for files saved in Lyrics3 format the display will be in milliseconds but without the fractional amounts.

Lastly, duets can also be synchronized in separate windows. Activate the Duet option by placing a checkmark on the Duet box and proceed to synchronize first Voice1 and then Voice2. Furthermore, in the window opened by button 5 – Debug Synchro you can move blocks of text from one section to the other.

Syncro

Voice1

Index	Description	Synchro
1	(MEN)	2729
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
2	My	5400
3	love,	6264
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
4	There's	9192
5	only	9714
6	you	10110
7	in	10536
8	my	11794
9	life	11985
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
10	The	14120
11	only	14389
12	thing	15564
13	that's	16004
14	right	16636
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
15	And	36491
16	i	38059
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
17	I	40517
18	want	40837

Voice2

Index	Description	Synchro
1	(WOMAN)	10000
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
2	My	20898
3	first	21827
4	love,	22493
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
5	You're	24864
6	every	25355
7	breath	26119
8	that	27055
9	I	27251
10	take	27451
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
11	You're	29979
12	every	30411
13	step	31195
14	I	31679
15	make	32309
	--- Inizio Riga Successiva ---	
16	And	36491
17	i-	38059
18	i-	38308
19	i	39055

Delete Row   Insert Row   Move Rows →   ← Move Rows   Delete Row   Insert Row

Copy Row   Paste Row   Copy Row   Paste Row

▶ ‖ ■   Save   Close   **DEBUG**

As an example: when the singing is takes place at the same time for both singers press on the Shift key and the down arrow to select a block of rows and then click on the Move rows button.

Here, as an example, is an actual synchronization:
First we start a file from the Primary fields or one of the Playlist then we click on Instruments and on Create/Modify Karaoke. The text can be opened through the text icon or paste it directly with Ctrl+V. Now we click on the Record button and press on the Enter key on the keyboard where the words or syllables that are supposed to be sung at that particular location in the music.   Once you reach the end click on Stop. If you notice a mistake at a particular place, click on Play and on the Spacebar on the keyboard to pause the song. Now we can go in the Punch In mode by pressing Enter on the keyboard. By using the arrows on the keyboard go to the position or row where the mistake is located and press on the Spacebar to re-start the song from that position and synchronize the word by pressing the Enter key where is supposed to happen. To exit from the Punch in mode press on the End key on the keyboard. To complete the project use the Save as key to save the song that was synchronized and /or had its parameters like tempo, transpose, bitrate (applicable to Midi files) and instruments reassign (applicable to Midi files), modified.

Express Midi Arranger

Click on Instruments and then Express Midi Arranger.
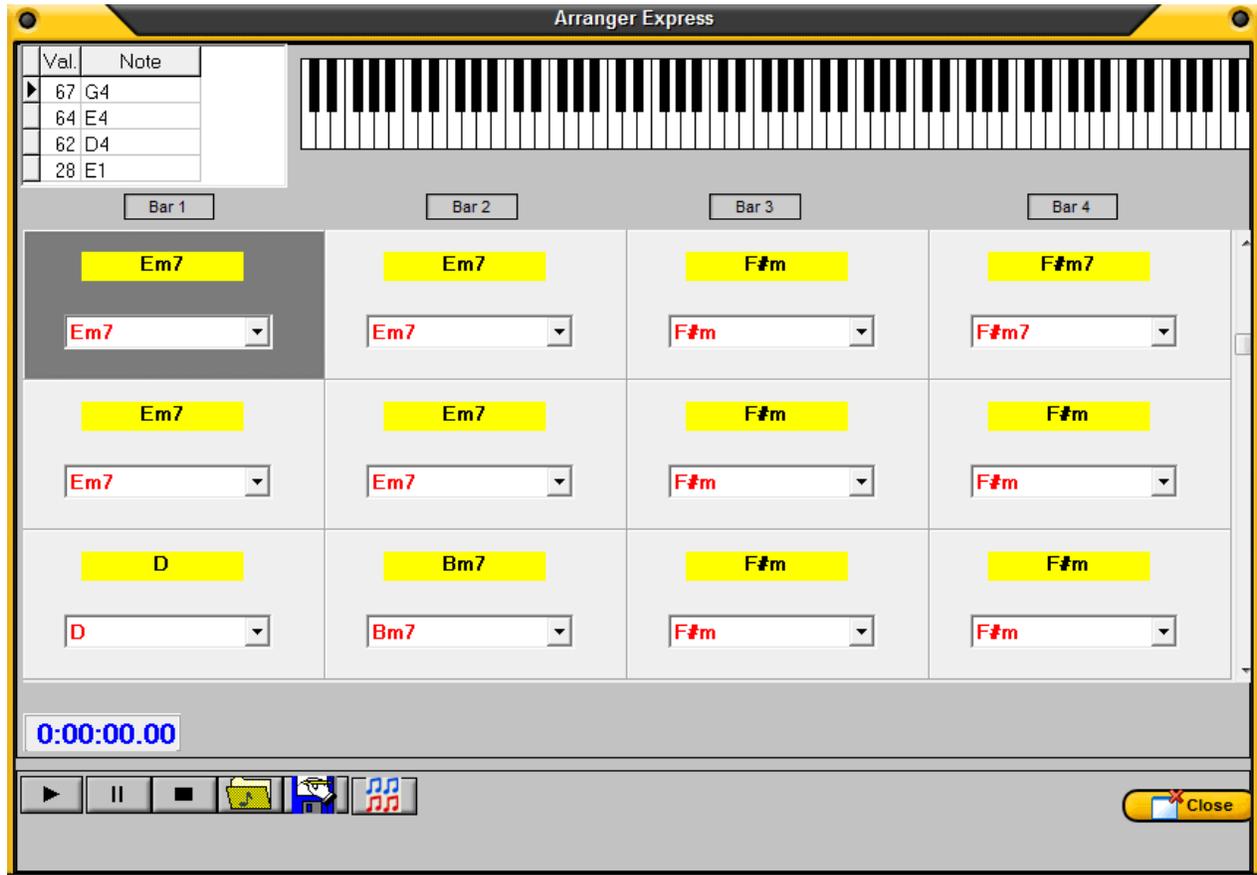
This procedure is dedicated to the musicians who want to re-arrange an existing Midi file or use it as a starting point in the creation of a new Midi file.

Select the Midi file to be used as a starting point (naturally it will need to have an original chord sequence). Move on to changing the chords by clicking on each bar and inserting the desired chord. The result will be a new song with your chords and the arrangement created from a different Midi file.

To save the new file, click on the Save button.

Another function available in the Midi Arranger is the Mirror (blue & red notes button) of a Midi file.

This procedure will let you extrapolate, from an existing Midi file, a different Midi file that is in essence a mirror image of the original. You can therefore create a new and original Midi file from an existing one taken as a source. The algorithm used is very good therefore the outcome is just as good. N.B. This last procedure will not turn you into composers but with a bit patience you can get excellent results.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

✴

Can I use the program without the recharge?
Yes - The program to display **MIDI, KAR, Mp3, Mp3+CDG and CD+G** files is accessible but the features intended for professional applications will not be available. However, a recharge is obtainable at www.karaoke5.com/forum after free registration and a minimum amount of participation in the community forum.

✴

Can I go back to an older Karaoke5 version?
Theoretically yes but the *Recharges* available at www.karaoke5.com/forum are only valid for the version that is currently ON-LINE on the Home Page www.karaoke5.com/it/welcome.htm.

✴

Is there a fast way to change the key and tempo of a song?
Yes. – By using the Ctrl+[directional arrows] you can change the tempo and the key of the song without touching the mouse.

✴

How much is the program?
In the downloaded version the program is completely free. If you want to use it with the professional features unlocked you must "earn" the free recharge by making posts (currently at 20) in the forum located at www.karaoke5.com/forum or contacting the programmer by going to Information on the menu bar and clicking on Recharge or Program>Pay for Codice of unlook (sic) or by calling Cell No. +39-3383917278.

✴

Can I use the Professional version of the program without logging in to the forum and without being connected to the Internet?
Yes, if you have purchased the UNLOCKING CODE.
For more information on the UNLOCKING CODE call +39-3383917278 or send an e-mail to info@karaoke5.com.

✴

I can't synchronize any songs... :-(
Your recharge level has to be at a value above zero or you must have the unlocked version of Karaoke5 .

✴

How do I use the double screen?
With an active Recharge, go to Utility in the menu bar and click on *Open/Close Karaoke–TV window.* There will be an additional window to display text, which can be moved and resized anywhere on your desktop or in a TV screen.

✴

I can't hear any audio while the Mp3 are running fluently, what could it be?
In this case it would be beneficial to control what is set up as the Midi output device. This can be done by going to Start>Control Panel>Sounds and Audio Devices>Audio tab and check in the field for MIDI music playback. Ensure that the proper device is selected.

Author's Note

This is obviously a manual that was conceived out of the need to give the user an initial introduction to the program and to dissipate any doubts that could arise during the (more or less) intense use of the program.

The programmer's experience and that of the "Main Tester", who uses the program in the "field" on a daily basis and often for several consecutive hours, have allowed the writer to gain enough knowledge to furnish, to those that have the patience to read them, these small but hopefully precious pointers.

In the event of inconsistencies or discrepancies in the explanation of the procedures, the user that notices them is kindly asked to report them so that the work is improved for the benefit of the whole Karaoke5 community.

Thank you for your attention and... ENJOY!

For information, proposals and suggestions
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Thanks to Michael Napolitano for the English translation and further additions and clarifications.