

To All: Producers, Directors, and Performers,

At the 2008 Louisiana Kids Show Producer Training session held in October, 2007 we voted to ENFORCE the 3:15 performance track rule. This basically states that a track turned in at a performance cannot exceed 3 Minutes and 15 seconds. Tracks that exceed this limit will be handed back to the entertainer. **IN CERTAIN CASES, AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SHOW PRODUCER**, a track longer than that will be accepted. This takes effect January 1, 2008.

A lot goes in to the planning of a show, and time is an important consideration. This means that existing music you have over that will have to be cut or edited (Preferred). We will no longer fade out tracks. Also, **TRACK MUST HAVE THE PERFORMERS NAME, SONG TITLE, AND TIME ON THE LABEL**. This email is to assist you on your options of having your music CORRECTLY edited for performances. Here are some options:

1) Purchase and learn music editing software. There are several on the market, Free to ones costing hundreds of dollars. Depending on the features and tools. Some suggestions are Cool Edit, NERO Wave Editor, Pro Tools, Wave Pad, and others. You can do an online search for it. Make sure whatever program you purchase has the ability to cut and paste, transpose, and high speed burning capabilities.

2) Some members offer to help with existing music you have. This would be on an individual basis, and since all of us work, may not be the fastest option.

3) Baton Rough Regional Directors Robert and Julie Klein can take care of your needed performance tracks - note below cost. They can be contacted @ brlakids@cox.net

4) Show Producer Willie Mendez can take care of your needed performance tracks - note below cost. He can be contacted @ wilmis@cox.net

\$5.00 - Will get any song AVAILABLE on karaoke from any brand (Sound Choice usually sound the best). This will also include the individual track on CD, CD Label with all required info, sleeve, and any KEY CHANGE that may be needed.

\$15.00 - Includes the above, but includes any cuts that need to be made. Will customize to members needs. Although its \$15.00, this INCLUDES WHATEVER SONG YOU WANT. So this will save you the \$15-\$25 on a karaoke CD. (Because anything you purchase over 3:15, you WILL STILL HAVE TO EDIT.) Then you have the song, and can make as many copies as you need.

5) Another editing program (FREE download) is Audacity

6) Other sites for purchasing or downloading Karaoke tracks:

www.wallmart.com (.88 cent music down loads) *Not all Karaoke, but there are quite a few Karaoke songs

www.karaokewh.com

7) Family Christian stores (In most cities/malls for Christian Karaoke tracks.)

Although it can be a hassle and an added expense, it is a requirement of this organization. Any organization from dancing schools to Girls/Boys scouts have monetary requirements. It is for the good of the organization.

OVER

Also, I have had several questions regarding programs to remove vocals. Please read the following line carefully...

Is there a program that can remove vocals?

THERE IS NO MACHINE OR SOFTWARE ON THE MARKET TODAY THAT CAN COMPLETELY REMOVE VOCALS FROM A SONG. Some may lower, but it will never be completely gone. Unless you have a multitrack recorder and you have multitrack file (not mp3), you just can't do it. These programs mainly take out center channels which most of the time lead vocals are on. They do not take into consideration effects (echo, reverb, etc). You will still get the vocal effects thru the left and right channel. And keep in mind if you do lower a vocal, when it is performed live thru our system, you will hear it.

Also, you have a legal issue there as well. Karaoke companies pay ASCAP and BMI for the rights to create a song. You are allowed by law to perform the song at live shows. When a karaoke track is recorded for a CD, or a CD is edited to remove vocals, that license is no longer valid, and you have to pay residuals on it EVERYTIME it is played or recorded. Always make sure you abide by this. Penalties and fines are heavy. If you have any specific questions, contact me.

Is there a site that can tell me if a song is on karaoke? Yes, here is a link to one..

<http://www.musicbookdeluxe.com/dealersearch/search.asp?id=1111>

Where can I buy Karaoke CD's?

Probably the largest collection of karaoke can be purchased from Phong Le Imports in Houston

Here is the link:

http://phonglekaraoke.com/store/comersus_index.asp

Here are other good sites:

<http://www.musicalcreations.com/>

<http://www.karaokenow.com/karaoke/>

<http://www.acekaraoke.com>

Once again, these tracks still may need to be edited. Also, they must be put on individual CD's for shows. Sound Choice usually has the best quality karaoke tracks.

If you have any questions please contact the Louisiana Kids State office
504 341 2196 – 504 296 8815.

Much Thanks,
Mike Hymel/Ted Bergeron
Louisiana Kids Co State Directors