

How to use Zoom for Online Karaoke

Welcome to the show! We're in the frontier to try new and bold things, like this Online Karaoke. We're gathering online to have some fun and share some moments. Hold on to your hats and let's dig in.

1. **REQUIREMENTS**

The only piece of equipment needed is either a modern computer/laptop, a smart phone, or a tablet. Obviously, the better the equipment and more bandwidth you have for your internet connection, the better the quality of the online karaoke experience. We will be using Zoom meeting as the software of which this online karaoke will be conducted on. So any devices that Zoom supports, will work.

a. **MODERN COMPUTER/LAPTOP**

Any modern computer/laptop running Windows, macOS, or Linux with the capability of playing video, have both a headphone and microphone connector, and a webcam will work. Most laptops has built-in webcams that you can use. However, for laptops, it's best not to use the build-in mic. Some laptops lack a mic input due to it having a built-in mic. But built-in mic will provide very poor karaoke experience.

For more computer/laptop requirements, see the Zoom support page on computer/laptop requirements: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>

b. **SMART PHONE OR TABLET**

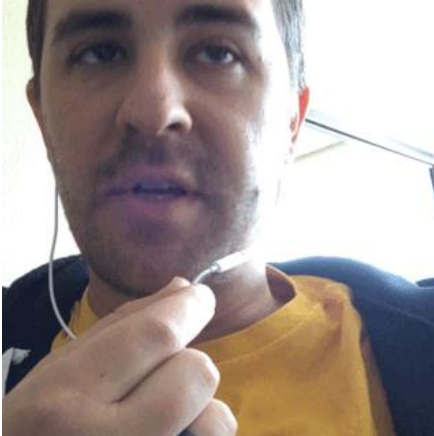
Most smart phone and tablets, either Android or iOS, will work just fine. Again, the more powerful the processor and bandwidth of the internet connection, the better the online karaoke experience. Just about all of them have headset/earbuds (both a headphone and microphone combined) connector and have built-in facing camera to use. Do not use the built-in speaker and microphone of the smartphone or tablet as that tends to create feedback and poor karaoke experience. Use a headset/earbuds that has both headphone/earbuds and a microphone.

Note: if you are using your smartphone or tablet on your mobile data plan, online karaoke will use a lot of your mobile data. The best is to connect your mobile device to a WiFi (preferably free) during the online karaoke.

For more smart phone and tablet requirements, see the Zoom support page on smart phone and table requirements: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201179966-System-requirements-for-iOS-iPadOS-and-Android>

c. HEADSET/EAR BUDS WITH MICROPHONE

We do NOT recommend using device built-in speaker(s) and microphone for online karaoke. It can create unpleasant feedback, and your singing voice will not come across very clearly. Be sure to use a headphone/earbuds with microphone with your device. Most headsets/earbuds that comes with your smart phone/tablet has microphone built-in. Those will work great. Just make sure to hold the microphone part a bit closer to your mouth when singing.



Pic 1 – Holding the microphone close to your mouth while singing.

Make sure you know your computer/laptop. Most computers will have a separate plugs, one for headphone and one for microphone. Not the combined headset (headphone and microphone) input that most smart phones and tablets use. Some laptops will not have a microphone input.



Pic 2 – Computer with headphone and microphone inputs. Note that the headphone symbol does not have a mic boom.



Pic 3 – Laptop with a headset (headphone and microphone combined) plug. Note the microphone boom in the headset symbol.



Pic 4 – Laptop with only a headphone plug (no microphone input). Note: no microphone boom on the headphone symbol.

For those without a microphone input, you can usually get a USB dongle that has a separate microphone input. (Here's an example of one:



https://www.amazon.com/Sabrent-External-Adapter-Windows-AU-MMSA/dp/B00IRVQ0F8/ref=sr_1_1)



With any computer/laptop/smart phone/tablet, you can certainly use a Bluetooth headset (both headphone and microphone combined). There is a very tiny latency when using Bluetooth headsets. Enough to throw the timing of your voice and music off sync on fast, upbeat songs. Sometimes, like the latest iPhone and Samsung phones, you must use Bluetooth headsets as they have stopped using the 3.5 mm plugs. You should look for Bluetooth headsets that has very low latency. For Samsung phones, you can get an USB-C to 3.5 mm adapter that allows you to use a headset with a 3.5 mm plug (like this one:



https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07XYQ2ZKH/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o07_s00

d. INTERNET CONNECTION

Online karaoke will require a hefty internet data usage. **We do NOT recommend you to use your mobile data.** Most unlimited mobile data plan will throttle you to slower speed after a certain amount of data is used. Those that have monthly limited mobile data plan will likely use that up and you'll pay extra for the extra mobile data used. We highly recommend that you use a home WiFi or network connection to the internet. Public WiFi connections can be used, but keep in mind that those typically have slower bandwidth depending on how many people are connected to the WiFi at the same time.

2. DOWNLOAD ZOOM

Now that we have the hardware out of the way, let's talk about the software needed, the Zoom client. If you use Zoom for work, then you should be all set. If you have not used Zoom, but you have used Microsoft Teams, Skype, RingMeeting, or the latest Facebook Messenger Desktop, Zoom should be very similar and you should be able to get around it very easily. For those that have never used the aforementioned conferencing software, have no fear. We'll go through this in details.

You have the option to download and install the Zoom client beforehand, so you can configure it and have it ready to go when the Online Karaoke starts (highly recommended). Or you can wait

until the Zoom meeting link shows up in Facebook. If you wait until the link appears on Facebook, when you click on the Zoom meeting link to go to the meeting, it'll prompt you to download and install the Zoom client. The download, install, and configuring the Zoom client takes about 10 minutes. So it's entirely up to you which route you want to take.

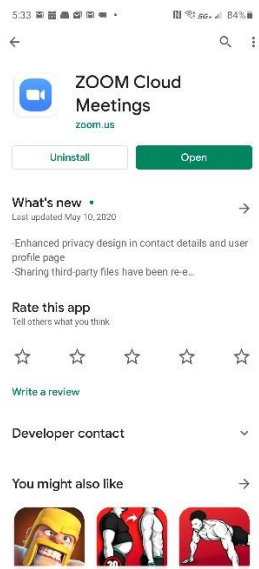
If you want to download, install, configure the Zoom client beforehand (again, highly recommended), the first thing we need to do is to download the Zoom client software. Depending on what device you'll be using, there are different ways to download and install the Zoom client software.

a. ON A COMPUTER/LAPTOP

- i. Open a web browser and go to https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting
- ii. Click on the "Download" button for "Zoom Client for Meetings". It'll automatically detect the OS you are using (Windows, macOS, Linux) and download the installer.
- iii. When the browser is downloading Zoom, depending on the web browser you use, there should be a status of the download near the bottom of the web browser window. When the download is completed, click on it to launch the installer.
- iv. Follow the dialog on the screen to install Zoom. It's fairly quick and compact.

b. ON A SMART PHONE OR TABLET

Go to the App Store (iPhone, iPad) or the Google Play (Android) and search for Zoom. Then click on Install to install it on your mobile device.

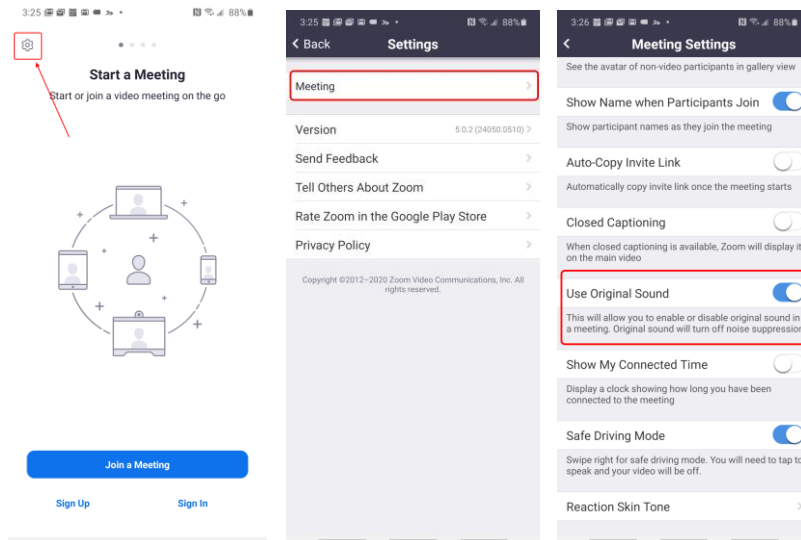


3. **CONFIGURE ZOOM**

Once you have Zoom installed, when you start Zoom, it'll ask you to create an account. **You DO NOT need to have an account to attend meetings with Zoom.** You only need an account if you need to initiate a meeting. So for this online karaoke purpose, you do not need to have a Zoom account. I'll try to have screenshots from multiple devices as the user interface of different devices will differ slightly.

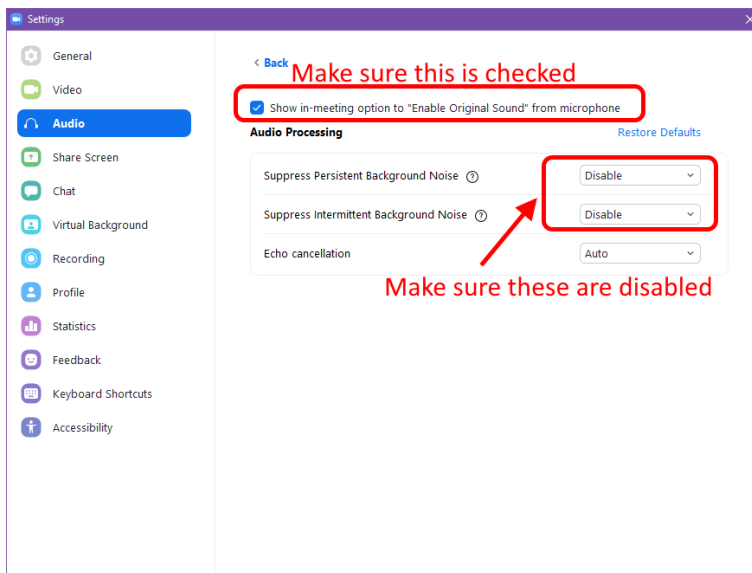
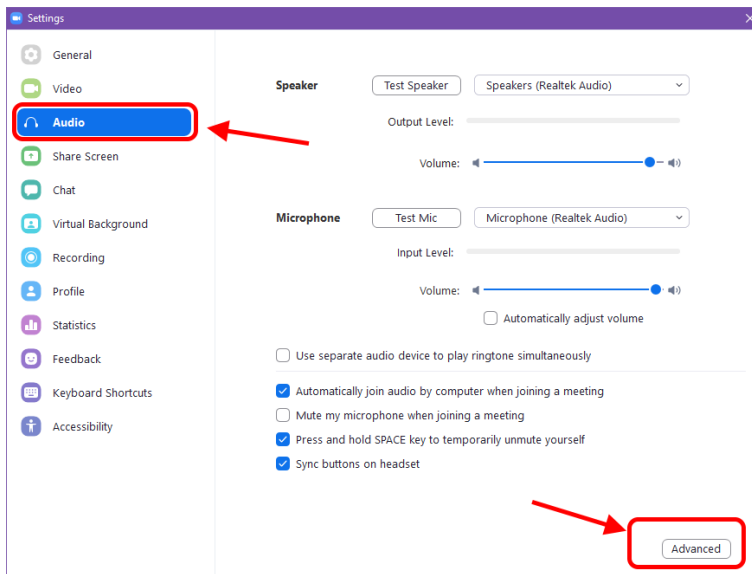
a. **GENERAL (SMARTPHONE OR TABLET)**

When Zoom is started, it'll ask to "Join a Meeting", "Sign Up", or "Sign In". In the upper corner (could be left or right depending on the device), there's a sprocket icon. That's the Settings icon. Click on the sprocket icon. Then select Meeting >. You can configure it to your liking. The one important setting here is the "Use Original Sound" setting. Make sure to turn it ON. This will allow you to turn "Use Original Sound" on or off during a meeting. See next section (section 3c) on using this feature.



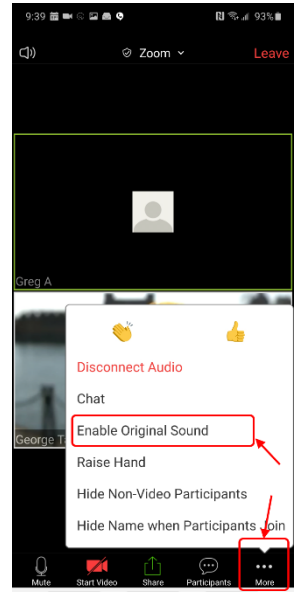
b. **GENERAL (COMPUTER/LAPTOP)**

The settings are only available once you sign in (if have account) or have joined a meeting. The "Use Original Sound" is located in the Advanced Audio settings. You first get to the settings page from the three dots ... in the control bar (see the Control bar screenshot in section 5 below). Then select Audio in the left menu. Then select the "Advanced" button in the lower right corner.



c. USE ORIGINAL SOUND !!! IMPORTANT !!!

What this feature does is that in normal sound mode, it tries to maintain good sound by using technologies like Dynamic Compression, Speech Enhancement, and Noise Cancelling. What that means is that it'll modify the sound to best possible for others to hear when you talk. This is great if it is just regular conversation. Some people might not have the best mic and this will try to correct that. **However**, this is not so great when it comes to singing. When there's a loud portion in the song, it'll tone it down and possibly tone it down enough to even cut the music away. When there's a soft portion of the song, it'll bring it up very loud. So you want to make sure you turn on "Use Original Sound" during the online karaoke for best karaoke experience. Once you have joined the meeting, for computers and laptops, this feature should be turned on once you turn on the option in the General Settings shown in 3b above. You can then toggle this feature in the "Options Bar" shown in the screenshot in Section 5 below. For smartphone and tablets, you'll need to click on the 3 dots in the "Control Bar" and click on "Enable Original Sound" in the popup menu.

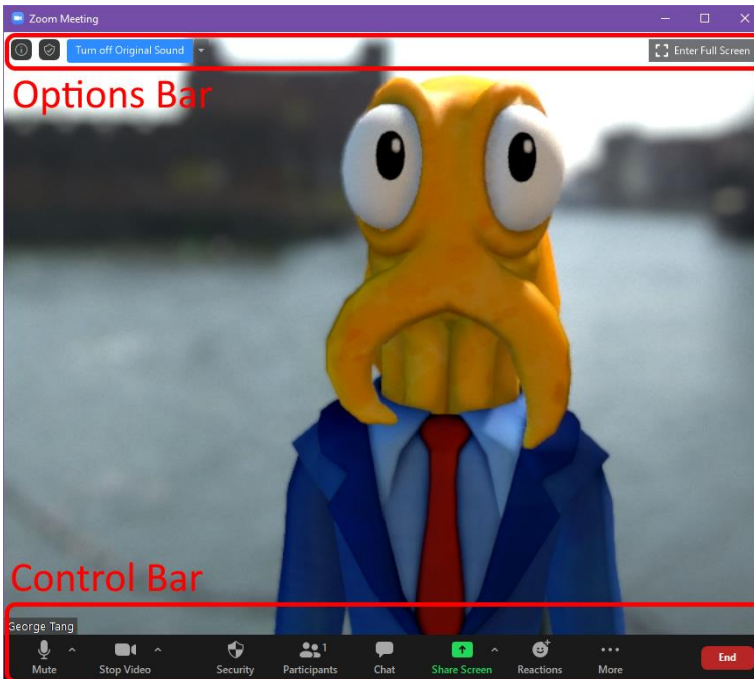


4. JOINING A ZOOM MEETING

We will provide a link on Facebook that you can simply click on to join the meeting (aka online karaoke). You can copy the link and pass it on to anyone that you want to invite. If you do not have the Zoom client installed, the link will ask if you want to install the client. Then simply go back to the last section on Configure Zoom. In some cases, the audio quality might be better if you call into the meeting via one of the phone numbers that are published along with the meeting link. Feel free to experiment to see which method either using your devices' audio or using a phone call audio is better. Landline phones might provide better audio experience while cell phones may lag.

5. ZOOM FEATURES

Once you joined a meeting, there's a control bar at the bottom. The control bar will automatically hide when you are not using it. Simply move the mouse around the bottom area (for computer/laptop) or tap near the bottom (smartphone/tablet) to bring up the control bar. There's also an options bar at the top.



It depends on if you are the host, presenter, or participant, the available features in the control bar will be different.

a. CONTROL BAR

i. Mute/Unmute

Clicking on the Mic Mute/Unmute button will toggle between mute and unmute. If you have multiple audio input devices like a laptop built-in mic and plugged in mic input, you'll find the choices in the drop UP selector by clicking on the up arrow next to Mute/Unmute button. You should select the appropriate input that you intend to use. Remember that we do not recommend using laptop or webcam built-in mic.

ii. Show/Stop Video

You can use a webcam for your computer/laptop, or use the camera(s) on your smartphone/tablet. You can choose to use those and share your video or not by clicking on the Show/Stop Video button. If you have multiple cameras like the front and back of your smartphone, you can use the drop UP selector by clicking on the up arrow next to the Show/Stop Video button to choose which camera to use.

iii. Participants list

You can click on the Participants button to see or hide the list of participants. This is helpful as more and more people join, you won't be able to see all participants on the main screen. You can open the Participants list to see who else is in the meeting.

iv. Chat

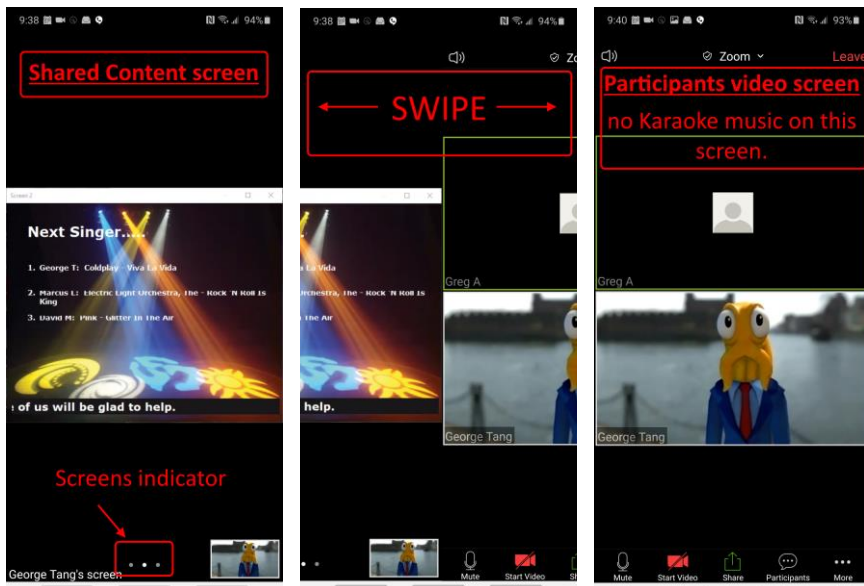
While others are singing, you can use the Chat button to open the chat screen to chat with everyone else or private chat with a specific participant. This can be handy to send your next song request to the host. Also allow everyone to chat freely when someone else is singing. If you do not have the Chat open, you won't see the chats that's going on. There might be private chats to you. You can tell when there are chats as the Chat button will have a red dot in the corner.

v. Reactions

Feel free to use positive reactions (smile, heart, hugs, etc) to someone's singing. We all want to be loved when we are expressing our emotions through songs. For smartphones/tablets, the reactions are located in the More menu (3 dots) in the Control Bar.

b. SMARTPHONE/TABLET VERSION OF ZOOM !!! IMPORTANT !!!

When using a smartphone or tablet, the screen real estate is very small. So the Zoom application will be using multiple screens that you can swipe left and right with. At the bottom of the screen when the Control Bar is hidden, you'll notice there are dots. Those dots indicates how many different screens there are and which screen you are on. The screen you are on is indicated by a white dot instead of a gray dot. This indicator helps to tell you that you can swipe left and/or right to get to another screen. The more people joining, the more screens you can swipe to see them. **The caveat of this feature is that the Karaoke music will only be played on the Shared Content screen, the one that only displays the Karaoke content.** When you are on any other screen that shows all the different participants, you will NOT hear the Karaoke music. So when you or someone is singing, please swipe to the Share Content screen to hear the karaoke music.



6. QUALITY EXPECTATIONS

Of course this is NOT like the live show at a bar. The experience you'll have will be different for everyone. This online venue relies on the device's capabilities as well as the internet connection that you have. The quality will suffer as the music must first travel to your device, for you to react, and then for your singing to travel back to everyone else. So be mindful of that while singing and might need to anticipate your singing slightly earlier than the music. This is especially true for fast and upbeat songs like "Danger Zone". Ballads are the best, as a few milliseconds is not going to make too much of a difference. **PLEASE** be patient with other people's lag. Not everyone has a good quality device to use and fast internet connection. We are all coming together online to have a good time and share some memories.

7. ONLINE KARAOKE ETIQUETTES

We are getting together to have some fun, have a moment away from daily routines, and create some great memories. As with any gathering, either virtual, online, or physical, there are some etiquettes that we would like all participants to follow.

a. **MUTE/UNMUTE**

When singers are performing, the host/producer will mute all participants. This is to prevent unwanted chatters from interrupting or distracting the singer(s). You can actively unmute/mute yourself at any time. But please be respectful of the singer to not unmute yourself during a performance unless it is absolutely needed. Use the Chat feature to make comments or have conversations during a performance.

b. DUETS/GROUP SINGING

Unless the original singer requested the performance to be a duet with another particular singer or group sing along, please do not unmute and sing with the singer. Although Duets and group singing is allowed (provided it was requested before a song starts), due to everyone having different devices and internet connections, there may be a lag between singers. Best to have different people sing different lines rather than trying to sing together or do harmonies.

c. SINGERS LAGGING BEHIND MUSIC

Please be patient with other people's lag. Not everyone have high quality device to use and/or fast internet connection. We are all here just to have some fun. Singers please be aware of the lag and try to anticipate singing slightly ahead of the music.

d. DECENCY

Since we may have children watching this, please be decent on camera and no pornography. Be aware of your surrounding and background while on camera. We do allow singers to use explicit lyrics to truly express the artists' original intentions. But do feel free to change the lyrics to sing non-explicit lyrics to express your interpretation.

e. NO NEGATIVITY

Please do not express negativity in the online karaoke. We are here to have fun together. If there are any unpleasantries, the host/producer have the right to ask those involved to leave the meeting.

f. SINGER ROTATION

You may leave and join the Online Karaoke whenever you like. Just keep in mind that if you missed your turn in the rotation, you'll have to wait for your turn in the next rotation. Please be patient depending on the number of participants, the rotation can be long. We'll do our best to get everyone to sing at least once.

8. KARAOKE SOURCES

Since this is a public service and not a paid gig, legally, this is considered to be a private party. So any karaoke source can be used. If you choose to use a different source, please let the host/producer know what source you want to use. You will not be able to present your source via Zoom. Instead, the producer will be accessing the online source and put it in play for you. Below are some suggestions of online sources.

- a. BNP Karaoke Collections <http://www.gobnp.com>
- b. KMojo Karaoke Collections (George's private collection). Please ask the producer if a certain song is available.
- c. YouTube Karaoke Channels – Please visit YouTube.com and search for your favorite karaoke tracks. The following YouTube channels have tons of available karaoke tracks to choose from. You can even subscribe to them to get notifications of new songs as they become available. To use these sources for the online karaoke, please send the complete URL to the producer in order to queue it up for you.
 - i. The Karaoke Channel
 - ii. KaraFun Karaoke
 - iii. The Karaoke Studio
 - iv. Mega Karaoke Songs
 - v. Sing King
 - vi. Karaoke Sing Sing
 - vii. Sing2Piano
 - viii. PopUp Karaoke Instrumentals
 - ix. Karaoke Academy
 - x. BKD Karaoke Studio

So with all that, you should be ready for some fun joining us for Online Karaoke. Welcome to the show!