

Dos and Don'ts of Karaoke

What the hell do I know?

- Musical theatre nerd (shocking, I know)
- 16 years of singing karaoke
- RMN live karaoke contest winner 2016

DOs

- Know your strengths... and weaknesses
- Know the song... no, *really* know the song
- Pick your song choices before you arrive
- Practice
- Use the space
- Engage/involve the audience
- Find the hidden gems
- Tip the DJ



Most Important!

- Time is a NOT a flat circle on the karaoke stage
- One minute feels like approx. 2 hours on stage

**No longer than
4 minutes**

DON'Ts

- Shots, shots, shots, shots, shots, shots...
- Pick a song you sorta, kinda, maybe know
- Start the evening with Bohemian Rhapsody



Guitar solos = slow death

- **“Sweet Child O’ Mine”** – Guns N Roses (45sec intro, 2:30 solo)
- **“November Rain”** – Guns N Roses (8:57 total, TWO solos)
- **“Hotel California”** – The Eagles (0:50 intro, 2:30 solo)
- **“Comfortably Numb”** – Pink Floyd (TWO solos... and a total bummer of a song)
- **“My Sharona”** - The Knack (0:52 solo, generally not worth it)
- **“Free Bird”** – Lynard Skynard (there is a reason why musicians hate when this song is requested...1:08 intro, 4:07 solo)
- **“Carry On My Wayward Son”** – Kansas (1:01 solo)
- **“All Along the Watchtower”** – Jimi Hendrix (1:05 solo)
- **“Black Magic Woman”** – Santana (1:06 intro, 0:44 solo)
- **“One”** - Metallica (1:46 intro, THREE solos... more solo than singing)
- **“Light My Fire”** - The Doors (4:38 guitar and ORGAN solo)



Also... Don't

"It's Raining Men" – The Weather Girls	"Yellow" - Coldplay
"Jeremy" – Pearl Jam	"Summer Nights" – Grease Soundtrack
"What's Up" – 4 Non Blondes	"American Pie" – Don McLean
"Don't Stop Believin" – Journey	"Wannabe" – Spice Girls
"Piano Man" – Billy Joel	"Thriller" - Michael Jackson
"Baby Got Back" – Sir Mix-A-Lot	"The Bad Touch" - Bloodhound Gang
"Livin on a Prayer" – Bon Jovi	"Hit Me Baby One More Time" - Britney Spears
"I Will Survive" – Gloria Gaynor	"Take On Me" - A-ha
"My Way" - Frank Sinatra (esp when in the Philippines)	"Paradise by the Dashboard Light" – Meat Loaf

Some Personal Faves

- “The Rain” – Oran Juice Jones
- “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now” – Starship
- “The Beautiful Ones” – Prince
- “Kiss Me Deadly” – Lita Ford
- “Freedom! 90” – George Michael
- “Strokin” – Clarence Carter
- “I’m Going Down” – Rose Royce
- “Gangsta’s Paradise” - Coolio

