



Karl Hugo is a prolific pianist, singer, composer and songwriter whose works are aired in over 100 countries throughout the world on prestigious networks such as **ABC, BBC One, CBC, Disney Channel, Disney Channel Asia, Fox Japan, Indosiar, MediaCorp Channels 5 & 8, Telemundo, TF1, Zee Café India** and on many airlines.

Karl began playing and composing on the piano as a child, creating his first concerto when he was barely a teenager. During this period, he won several prizes and awards including a 1st prize in the **Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations** Music Writing Competition and completed music commissions for **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens** and **ICI Radio-Canada Télé (CBC)**. He studied piano with the great piano teacher **Lucille Brassard**, composition with **André Prévost** and orchestration with **Alan Belkin**. Karl completed his musical education with classical singing, violin, bassoon and orchestral conducting under renowned *maestro* **Alexander Brott**.

In 1992, Karl realised that he no longer wanted to restrict himself to classical music and released a popular piano album entitled *Momentum*. He then met **Ice Capades** star **Julie Brault** with whom he filmed *Broadway*, an ambitious video combining piano and figure skating. For the occasion, **Kawai** loaned him its famous **Crystal Grand**, the beginning of a sponsorship that would last for many years.

Inspired by Karl's passion for figure skating and his grandiose musical style, Olympic medalists **Isabelle Brasseur & Lloyd Eisler** asked him to compose and perform original music live for their television production *Dreams on Ice*, an annual fundraising event broadcast on more than forty television stations for many years. This unique experience afforded Karl the pleasure of watching great figure skaters the likes of **Ekaterina Gordeeva, Nancy Kerrigan, Scott Hamilton, Brian Orser, Yuka Sato, Elvis Stojiko** and **Kristi Yamaguchi** grow and develop to the sound of his music.

After coming to the attention of **IMG** in New York, Karl was invited to play his compositions at professional ice shows such as *Champions on Ice* and *Skate the Dream*, always accompanied by his transparent **Kawai** piano. He also wrote music for ice dancers such as **Isabelle & Paul Duchesnay**, **Isabelle Delobel & Olivier Schoenfelder** and **Marie-France Dubreuil & Patrice Lauzon**. Members of the new generations of figure skaters who have called on Karl's talent include **Miki Ando**, **Patrick Chan**, **Meagan Duhamel & Eric Radford**, **Gracie Gold**, **Lilah Fear & Lewis Gibson**, **Yuzuru Hanyu**, **Madison Hubbell & Zachary Donohue**, **Yuna Kim**, **Les Suprêmes**, **Marigold IceUnity**, **Gabriella Papadakis & Guillaume Cizeron**, **Adam Rippon**, **Joannie Rochette**, **Bradie Tennell**, **Shoma Uno**, **Tessa Virtue & Scott Moir**, **The Haydenettes**, **The Rockettes** and **Kaitlyn Weaver & Andrew Poje**.

In 1999, Karl released a second album on the **BMG** label which spent a month at the top of the **Billboard Talent Net charts**, an online extension of the famous **Billboard Magazine**. This success gave him the opportunity to perform in such renowned venues as the **Bellagio** in Las Vegas, the **Bell Centre** in Montreal and the Halifax **Metro Centre**, to name just a few. That same year, the skies over Montreal were lit up to the sound of Karl Hugo's music at the **15th Benson & Hedges International fireworks competition**, a rare and colourful event which was subsequently repeated several times in Geneva, Switzerland.

In 2005, Karl became a musical composer and performer for world famous *Just for Laughs Gags* and *Just Kidding*, its recent spinoff co-produced by **Disney**. To date he has created hundreds of pieces of music featuring various instruments from whistling, in *The Strongest Girl in the World Prank* (14 million views on YouTube), to scat singing, in the viral video *Soft Ice Cream Scam* (43 million views on YouTube).

His love of musicals led Karl to contribute his talents as an arranger, orchestrator, musical director and live musician to numerous official Canadian productions of works such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *My Fair Lady*, *Nine* and *The Sound of Music*. Building on this experience, in 2008 he created and produced his own musical, *Noémia*, for which he wrote the book and the music.

Karl returned to his solo career in 2015. He founded the **Karl Hugo Music** record label, **Musivarts Publishing**, started directing and editing his own music videos, christened his recording studio **Studio Chimay**, created a complete website **karlhugomusic.com** and finally, launched *Blue Sparkles*, an instrumental album on which he performs 12 of his own compositions on the piano. With more than 17,000 fans on Facebook (French and English pages), Karl's efforts were rewarded, and he began to think about a sequel: *Red Sparkles*.

Involved in the music used in the **2018 Winter Olympics**, Karl chose this exciting time to launch his album ***Red Sparkles***. In this new opus, just like in the previous one, he creates a very personal blend of romantic, modern classical (neo-classical) and popular music styles. He is accompanied by a classical orchestra, enhanced by the presence of an electric bass, drum kit and vocals on certain songs.

Winter 2020, Karl Hugo joined forces with *The Voice of China* sensation **Junshu Zheng**, Chinese ice dance champions **Shiyue Wang & Xinyu Liu** as well as the renowned Canadian choreographer **Marie-France Dubreuil** to create a grandiose music video. For the needs of this collaboration with the Chinese label **HIFIVE Music**, Karl added English lyrics to one of his instrumental composition and thus created the song ***I Feel Lonely***, later adapted into Mandarin (孤独的雪花). Not only is the result breathtaking, but it is also heartwarming to see that such a unifying project can still exist despite cultural differences.

In September 2020, Karl Hugo successfully launched an instrumental single titled ***Your Last Kiss***. This vibrant piano cello duet is an extended version of the music Karl composed for the latest free program of Olympic figure skating medalist **Shoma Uno**. **Feeling Mathieu Caron** draw the single cover inspired by the iconic costume he designed for **Uno**. The entire program is based on the concept of choreographer **David Wilson** and Karl's partner in figure skating music, music designer **Hugo Chouinard**.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Karl Hugo brings comfort to his fans by uploading a moving music video. He chose to rearrange his composition ***Romantika*** and re-record it with the participation of passionate musicians of a string orchestra. Renamed ***Romantika Amo*** for the occasion, Karl, as usual, directed and edited this video which has both a modern style and a romantic sensibility.

On **International Kissing Day** 2021, Karl Hugo launched the sequel of ***Your Last Kiss*** single, an ardent piano and cello duet titled ***Endless First Kiss***. For the art cover of his new opus, Karl chose the sketch of ***The Next Ice Princess*** dress, designed and drawn by **Josiane Lamond** and highlighted by vivid watercolor, which illustrates the almost epic emotions love can sometimes produce.

Karl Hugo has lent his musical talents as a composer, arranger and musician to many figure skaters participating in the **2022 Olympic Winter Games**. Among these athletes, who represent 14 countries are **Madison Chock & Evan Bates** (USA), **Lilah Fear & Lewis Gibson** (GBR), **Laurence Fournier Beaudry & Nikolaj Sørensen** (CAN), **Alexei Bychenko** (ISR), **Karen Chen** (USA), **Kaitlin Hawayek & Jean-Luc Baker** (USA), **Leona Hendrickx** (BEL), **Madison Hubbell & Zachary Donohue** (USA), **Vanessa James & Eric Radford** (CAN), **Alexa Knierim & Brandon Frazier** (USA), **Keegan Messing** (CAN), **Riku**

Miura & Ryuichi Kihara (JPN), Kirsten Moore-Towers & Michael Marinaro (CAN), Gabriella Papadakis & Guillaume Cizeron (FRA), Wang Shiyue & Liu Xinyu (CHN), Olivia Smart & Adrián Díaz (ESP) as well as Alexandra Stepanova & Ivan Bukin (ROC).

At the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympics**, **51 athletes** benefited from the expertise of Karl Hugo and his partner in figure skating music, musical designer **Hugo Chouinard**. Composed and performed by **Karl Hugo** for three-time world figure skating champion **Kaori Sakamoto**, the single ***Lovation*** was released on May 26, 2023. *Lovation* is the combination of the words Love, Admiration and Action. Karl created this hymn to love, taking inspiration from both the dynamic and modern side of Kaori, and his deep respect for traditional values rooted in the challenges of today's life.

During the **Great East Japan Earthquake**, city lights went out, revealing a comforting myriad of twinkling stars. Skater **Yuzuru Hanyu** and choreographer **David Wilson** suggested that Karl take inspiration from this event to create a hymn of hope that would serve as an overture to **Notte Stellata**, a show for the benefit of the victims of 3.11. It is with honor and pleasure that Karl Hugo composed and performed ***Twinkling Stars of Hope*** (輝く希望の星たち), a shimmering music using piano, orchestra and voices complemented by taikos, shakuhachi and koto. In the winter of 2024, Karl released the single *Twinkling Stars of Hope* and learned in the same time that *Notte Stellata*, including its overture, had now become a tradition captured every year and available on DVD and Blu-ray.

The year 2024 marks the return of **Karl Hugo** to musicals with the creation of a new version of ***Noémia*** which will be presented in Belgium in 2025. Let us recall that Karl wrote the book and the music for this original musical containing 28 songs with lyrics by **Pier Davi**.

Website: karlhugomusic.com/

Email: press@karlhugomusic.com

Facebook: facebook.com/karlhugomusic

YouTube: youtube.com/karlhugomusic

Instagram: instagram.com/karlhugomusic

Twitter: twitter.com/karlhugomusic

Spotify: [KarlHugoOnSpotify](https://open.spotify.com/artist/KarlHugoOnSpotify)

Apple Music: [KarlHugoOnApple](https://open.spotify.com/artist/KarlHugoOnApple)