

What is RiSA?

The Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA) is registered as a non-profit organisation and acts as a trade association of South African record companies with members who have a common economic interest in the recorded music industry in South Africa. RiSA's approximately 3,000 members choose to be members of RiSA, and to remain members because their shared pursuit of their common interests is considered to be important. The overwhelming majority of RiSA members are micro or small businesses and a very high percentage of these companies are owned by black entrepreneurs

- The RiSA Secretariat is led by the CEO, Advocate Nhlanhla Sibisi, and employs a number of people who attend to the day-to-day activities of the association. All committees in RiSA are made up of record company employees who make their services available as volunteers. RiSA is funded only by the payment of a levy on each download sale, CD, cassette or DVD unit manufactured or imported into the country by its members. The bulk of RiSA's budget goes towards fighting piracy through payment of membership fees to SAFACT (attending to piracy of physical products) and IFPI (piracy in the digital domain). Under circumstances where the recorded music industry is showing year-on-year declines in its turnover, it would make the legitimate producers of recorded music even less competitive vis-à-vis pirates if the levies on RiSA members had to be raised to have resources available to attend to other activities, e.g. the SA Music Awards.
- The South Africa Music Awards (SAMA) are the premier annual music awards event in South Africa that exist to honour and recognize accomplishment in the South African recording industry. These are the only recording industry supported awards.
 - Produced and hosted under the auspices of the Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA), the annual event showcases the country's finest musical talent, and awards the previous year's star performers at a gala event currently broadcast live on SABC 1. With categories that cover all the commercially significant musical genres, garnering a prized statuette is a key achievement for any South African artist, group or producer. The gala broadcast event presents a mix of glamour, excitement and once in a lifetime on-stage collaborations that delivers high viewership figures and coverage in the majority of newspapers and magazines.

