

In The News

Billboard Magazine Features Akerman Client for Historic Musicabana Cuba Concert

March 1, 2016

In an article titled, “The Cuban-American Musical Detente: Inside A Native Son’s 40-Year Road to Havana’s Newest Festival,” *Billboard* magazine described the journey of Akerman client Fabien Pisani, co-founder of Musicabana Foundation, who organized the first of a succession of unprecedented musical events taking place in Cuba this year, including the much-anticipated Major Lazer concert in Havana on March 6 and a Musicabana Festival in May. International Practice Chair [Pedro Freyre](#), who led the Akerman team assisting Pisani, described the shift in U.S. and Cuba relations that continues to open opportunities for the music and entertainment industries. Previously, American artists were required to hold workshops and clinics for Cubans in order to perform on the island, and any concert profits were donated to an independent non-governmental organization in Cuba or a U.S. charity. According to Freyre, a new set of rules allows American citizens to hold profits from musical events produced in Cuba.

Billboard wrote, “With a co-sign from Cuban officials, Pisani then reached out to Freyre and his firm. ‘When they told us [in Cuba] that it can happen, we spent almost two months building the whole legal framework,’ Pisani says. ‘And [the attorneys] have been meeting with the State Department, and the feedback has been positive.’”

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Freyre was quoted, “Taking that requirement away makes it a lot easier for organizers and producers to put the project together. You have to pay taxes like everything else, it’s not a free ride. And of course you have to cover costs. You’re going to pay production, you’re going to pay the rental of equipment ... [but] whatever is left over, your investors get to keep.”

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