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**DAVID SANCHEZ**  
**Travesía**

2001 Sony Music

"Travesía" (the album) has no liner notes to speak of. However, there are two photographs that show David Sánchez (sax at the ready) walking towards a misty white light on a musical journey to parts unknown. Living proof that a picture (or two) is worth a thousand words.

"Travesía is a crossing--not really the journey itself, but the motion and movement of it," says Sánchez, "its part of life, living, moving forward."

As a child Sánchez was exposed to the sounds of Ismael Rivera, Earth Wind and Fire, Aretha Franklin and the bomba and plena rhythms of Puerto Rico. At 8 he began playing percussion (bongos and conga drums) and at 12 Sánchez took up the saxophone. His sister (an avid music enthusiast) changed his life when she introduced him to a Miles Davis anthology titled, "Basic Miles", which featured John Coltrane. It opened up a world of possibilities for the young saxophonist who was just beginning to explore his instrument.

In 1986 Sánchez enrolled at the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, but the pull of New York was irresistible. By 1988 he had auditioned for and won a music scholarship at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Sánchez quickly became a member of New York's jazz scene. He gigged with pianist Eddie Palmieri and shared the stage with musicians such as saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera and Claudio Roditi. At the recommendation of D'Rivera and Roditi, Dizzy Gillespie invited the young saxophonist to join his United Nations Orchestra in 1991. Sánchez remained with Gillespie until his retirement then formed his own band and signed a record deal with a major label.

More recently Sánchez garnered two Grammy nominations. The first for "Obsesión" and the second for the follow-up recording, "Melaza." In addition, Sánchez has appeared on high-profile recordings with bassist Charlie Haden ("Harlem Nocturne") and trombonist Steve Turre's ("TNT -Trombone-N-Tenor") released earlier this year.

Sánchez is the sole producer for this project. He also contributes 3 compositions: "Paz Pa' Vieques", "River Tales" and "Karla's Changes." Saxophonist Miguel Zenón contributes "Joyful."

The band also draws its inspiration from jazz and Latin classics, such as Wayne Shorter's "Prince of Darkness" and E. B. Castillo's "No Quiero Piedras En Mi Camino" (popularized by Ismael Rivera).

Other notable tracks include "La Máquina/Viajando en el Tren" and a passionate adaptation of "Pra Dizer Adeus." We're basically experimenting with forms to get out of the old patterns, out of the routine of the song format, unless of course, we're doing a standard," says Sánchez.

The quintet consists of David Sánchez (Tenor Saxophone), Miguel Zenón (Alto Saxophone), Edsel Gómez (Piano), Hans Glawischnig (Bass) and Antonio Sánchez (Drums). Alto player Miguel Zenón assumes the role of an intriguing foil for the leader's tenor, with the saxophonists trading licks or improvising simultaneously. The twin saxophone front-line has become the band's trademark sound of late.

David Sánchez makes extraordinary music that speaks loud and clear on its own terms. For those of you who were wondering, liner notes are not required. In other words, "Travesía!"

Review by Thomas Peña

Tracks:

1. Prince Of Darkness
2. La Máquina (Viajando En El Tren)
3. Paz Pa' Vieques (Seis Chorreao)/Peace For Vieques
4. Ill Wind
5. Joyful
6. River Tales
7. No Quiero Piedras En Mi Camino
8. Karla's Changes
9. Pra Dizer Adeus
10. The Power Of The Word

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