

Alejandro Sanz – Sirope (2015)

Written by bluelover

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1. A mí no me importa 2. Capitán Tapón 3. Pero tú 4. La guarida del calor 5. Tú la necesitas 6. Un Zombie a la intemperie 7. Todo huele a ti 8. No madura el coco 9. La vida que respira 10. Suena la pelota 11. A que no me dejas 12. El silencio de los cuervos 13. El club de la verdad

Decades into his career, Alejandro Sanz has already experimented with such a dizzying array of styles it's difficult to keep track of them. That said, his musical restlessness knows no bounds on *Sirope*. Over 13 tracks he delves into pop and folk traditions, stitching everything from funk and cumbia to rock, soul, and reggae -- and of course flamenco -- into sonic landscapes governed by his passionate Andalusian voice. His skill as a songwriter and arranger is balanced by his keen ear as a producer. Sanz demoed and charted everything in his home studio, bringing in co-producer Sebastián Krys (who mixed 2012's *La Música No Se Toca*) when it was time to begin recording. Despite modern production, the set has a very analog sound. Everything from loops to strings were recorded and engineered with warmth and immediacy. No matter what else appears in this mix, acoustic guitars are as present as his voice. First single "Un Zombie a la Intemperie" is understandably a ballad -- it's the man's trademark, after all. But as he weaves together a lithe, romantic melody, it takes on cinematic scope because of its smart instrumentation. Nylon-string guitars and piano are adorned with dramatic strings, well-placed, subtle loops and ambient effects, shuffling snares, and a bumping bassline. "Un Zombie a la Intemperie" is in marked contrast with the steamy opener "A Mí No Me Importa," which weds reggae and cumbia with funky electric piano, horn vamps, dubwise bass, soaring souled-out female backing vocals, and a spiny electric guitar break. "Pero Tú" uses phrases from "Pachelbel's Canon" in a frame of jazzy pop, modern soul, and Andalusian folk. One can hear traces of Wilson Pickett, Don Covay, and Julius Cheeks in the gritty, funky gospel rock of "La Guarida del Calor," with great breaks by drummer Pete Thomas and rumbling bass by Davey Faragher. That wild, unhinged gospel-infused R&B gets rubbed against hard-grooving nuevo flamenco on "Tú la Necesitas." "Todo Huela a Ti" is a breezy pop/rocker, with a shimmering beat and soul guitars. "La Vida Que Respira" is a breathtaking innovation on modern flamenco. Illustrated with tough loops and layers of acoustic and electric guitars, the bridge breaks with the form as a multi-voice chorus, strings, and an electric piano -- playing

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Afro-Latin montunos -- swoop in from the margins. "Suenala Pelota" is a glorious, uplifting duet with Juan Luis Guerra. It's an uplifting paean to self-forgiveness and acceptance. It's followed by the amazing midtempo ballad "A Que No Me Dejas," whose mariachi horn break is priceless. Initially, Sirope might be jarring for some listeners. Though polished, it contains no sheen. It is not a common exercise in pop fusion, but the vision of an artist who understands the roots of every style and tradition he employs. With Sirope, Sanz takes his fans further out onto his ledge than ever and rewards them abundantly for the journey. While refusing to compromise, he has -- again -- expanded Latin pop's reach. ---Thom Jurek, Rovi

Alejandro Sanz a utilizado las redes sociales como su mejor aliado ya que han ido soltando poco a poco pequeñas fragmentos de información, las primeras eran pistas sobre la letra del "un zombie a la intemperie", el 17 de marzo hacía público a través de su cuenta de twitter el título del Lp: "Venga va... El título es Sirope y sale a la venta el 4 de mayo". Un poco después mostró la foto de la portada en la que su cara luce en un primer plano muy del gusto de sus fans, juego al que sus seguidores se prestan gustosos, aunque la fecha oficial de salida del disco es el 4 de mayo; la preventa del Lp lleva tiempo funcionando y ya es el número 1 de ventas en 11 países. La preventa consiste en una edición especial de doble vinilo más el cd firmada por el artista en una edición limitada. Su compra también posibilita a sus fans adelantarse al resto del mundo con la opción de escuchar 5 temas inéditos de modo escalonado antes del 4 de mayo, entre ellos "Capitán Tapón" dedicado a su hijo.

Alejandro compagina la presentación de sus nuevo trabajo con su labor televisiva como coach del concurso "La Voz", donde se está mostrando como un artista muy querido no sólo por el público sino también por sus compañeros de profesión, que no dejan de alabar su faceta de compositor. Hace ya 24 años desde su primer éxito con el álbum "Pisando Fuerte" y Alejandro no ha dejado en ningún momento de cosechar éxitos ni de ampliar fans y eso en la sociedad de consumo rápido en la que ahora nos desenvolvemos sólo puede implicar un buen saber hacer y mucha calidad en su trabajo. --- pedrovision-noticias.com

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