

WALK DON'T RUN **(Johnny Smith)**



The group here, as with a BBC outing from 5 November 1960 (preceded by a live performance one month earlier), also available on fan-produced sources, pretty well mirrors the style of The Ventures' 1960 version which attracted widespread admiration at the time and is now regarded as one of the true greats of RI . It is hard to be absolutely positive with the variations in tape speed that afflict so many early 60s fan-made recordings, but a general distinction (supported by a recollection of the two airings) can be drawn between the two renditions: the RL version is taken at a fair lick as per The Ventures, whereas the BBC offering is that bit slower, perhaps under the influence of the rather laid-back, not to say mannered contemporary hit from The John Barry Seven. There is more: the Luxembourg (recorded maybe October time, the two hit versions charting in September??) sounds a mite tentative and certainly lacks the high polish of the model; the BBC in contrast is assured, eliciting a couple of flourishes from Hank towards the close and a flamboyant tug on the tremolo arm to cap it off! In any event, WALK DON'T RUN is unlikely to have had a long shelf life in The Shadows' repertoire, being restricted in all probability to late 1960 through early/mid-1961, with a fresh, studio recording surfacing over a decade and a half further down the line.