

## RUNAWAY

(Del Shannon/ Max Crook)

Ventures: August 1963 LP *Let's Go!* (US No.30)

Shadows: September 1982 LP *Live At Abbey Road* (UK No.24)



The first Ventures brush with this fabulous hit from the late, great Del Shannon took the form of a full-blooded instrumental — thoroughly enjoyable with its nice fruity guitar sound and all-round ultra-slick performance, though The Hunters' marvellously echo-laden blast from February 1962 comes top of my own list here. The composition was adopted in due course by The Ventures as a stage vocal. Now whereas Don Wilson plays it by the book and sings like Don Wilson, The Shadows on their *Live At Abbey Road* LP sang it in the style of Marvin Welch & Farrar, slowing the pace and so stripping away all momentum; worse still, they treated a quintessentially angst-ridden song to an overpowering dose of mellifluous harmonies, not exactly in lullaby territory but perilously close, opening up the prospect of a whole new subgenre, Chilling Out With Del-Boy: 'Cry Myself Soothingly To Sleep', 'I Go Composedly To Pieces' ...