

## STARDUST

(Hoagy Carmichael/ Mitchell Parish)

Shadows: July 1967 LP *Jigsaw* (UK No.8)

Ventures: June 1995 CD (Japan) *Pops A La Carte*



This and ‘Maria Elena’ caught The Shadows in mellow mood on the album *Jigsaw*, with stylish interpretations by Hank of two highly regarded standards, the latter having made the Top 5 in the UK, just falling short of that in the US, as a guitar intro in 1963 from Brazilians Los Indios Tabajaras. It attracted a suitably acoustic rendition over a couple of decades further on from The Ventures – elegant enough if a little heavy-handed perhaps in the rhythm department. There have been live versions from Japan too, one of them very elegant indeed, on the 2000 CD *In Japan – Live 2000*.

Their ‘Stardust’ (how did they come to put off fielding their version of such a Japanese hot favourite for so long?) is reminiscent of The Ventures’ early slowie-style, with a resonant, nicely-rounded tone to the lead guitar (“1960 vintage Bogle guitar perfection” Dave Peckett). While the pace is certainly leisurely (this always has been a “dreamy” sort of number after all, as I seem to recall Hoagy Carmichael once described a composition of which he was immensely proud), I have no sense of it “plodding along uncomfortably” as detected by one reviewer in the process of dealing out to the *A La Carte* album a comprehensive drubbing – a drubbing it does not even begin to merit in my estimation. That though is another story.