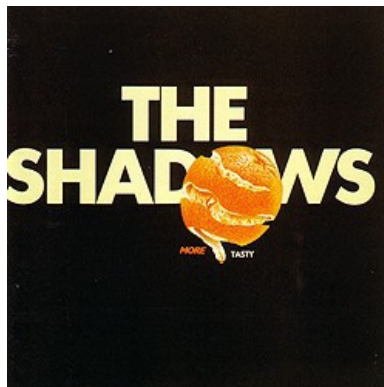


HONKY TONK WOMEN

(Mick Jagger/ Keith Richard)

Ventures: December 1969 LP *Swamp Rock* (US No.81)

Shadows: August 1977 LP *Tasty*



The Ventures' *Swamp Rock* workout starts off promisingly enough, in fact very promisingly indeed, with some fine McGee finger-picking, but after a minute and a half or so of relative peace and quiet, brass and harmonica rasp out competitively and, in the end, oppressively. Not a patch on 'Proud Mary' ([43]). The performance captured on the October 1970 Japanese LP *Live! The Ventures* (made available digitally in the first Japanese *Live Box*), with a keyboard contribution from John Durrill, is much fresher and unencumbered by over-assertive brass. But still more noteworthy is the latest studio take, again with McGee on lead, on the 2001 CD (Japan) *V-Gold III*. This is much more like it: it may not exude the rawness of earlier outings, but it has a striking stereo soundstage, no brass, harmonica from Darrell Devlin which does not sound as if it is locked in mortal combat with the rest, and above all a muscular performance from all concerned.

On The Shadows' album *Tasty*, this was one of the leftovers from earlier sessions involving John Farrar. To those who prefer the clean-cut sound regarded as the group's trademark, this shouty, overblown effort, which is driven/ overdriven to a singularly cacophonous close, will have little or no appeal.

