

Michael Hanu, Editor

Folkways Records FG 3506

# RAYMOND SWING

## Seventy-Fifth Birthday Anniversary Album

Excerpts from his Historic Broadcasts on:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S QUARANTINE SPEECH  
(Oct. 10, 1937)

FLIGHT FROM THE NAZIS OF SIGMUND FREUD  
(June 7, 1938)

MUNICH PACT  
(Oct. 18, 1938)

RIBBENTROP-MOLOTOV NON-AGGRESSION PACT  
(Aug. 21, 1939)

NAZI INVASION OF HOLLAND, BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG  
(May 10, 1940)

DEATH OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
(April 12, 1945)

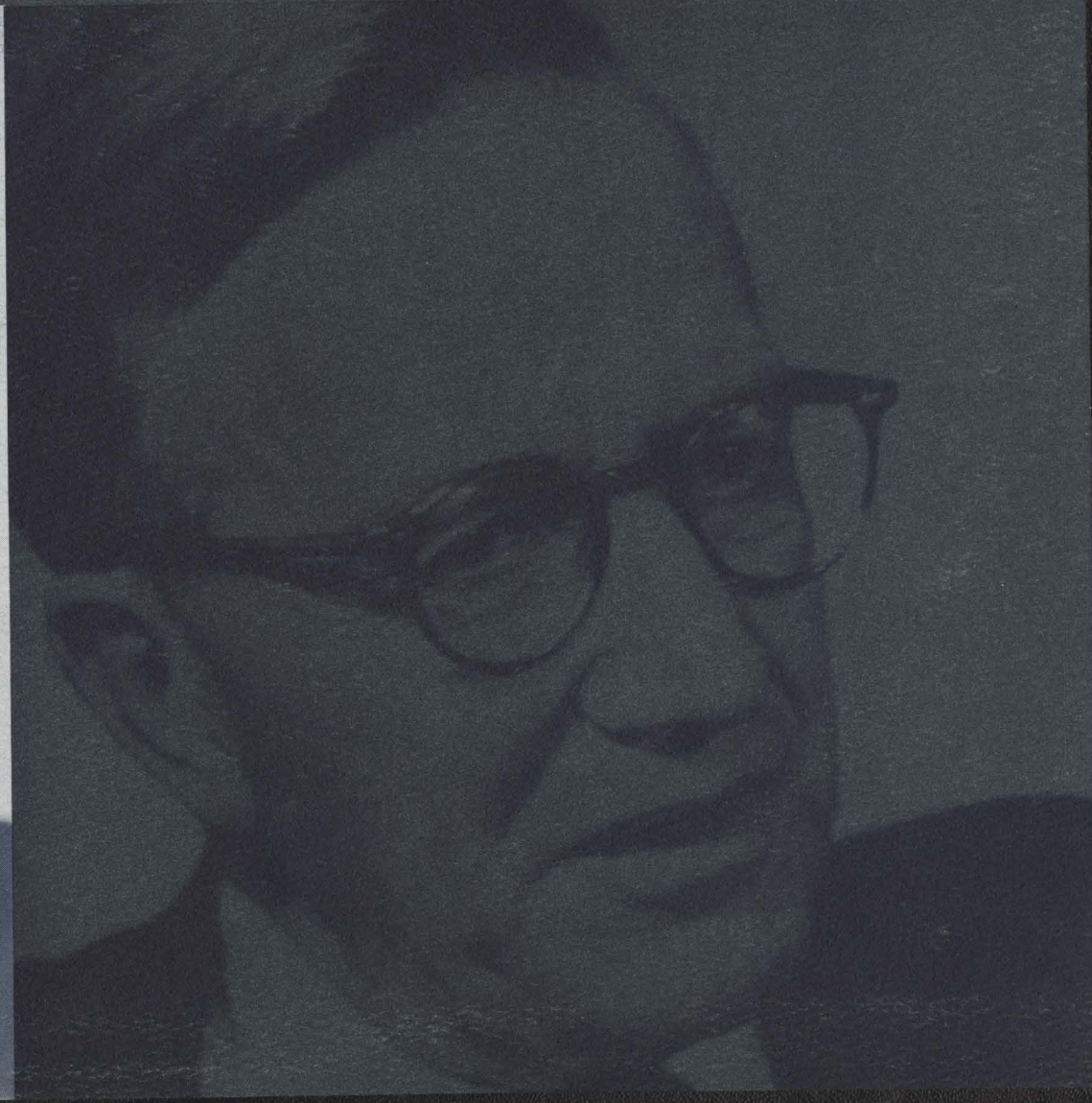
COMMENTS ON THE ATOMIC AGE  
(1945)

SONATA IN C MINOR FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

(Composed in 1928 by Raymond Swing)

1. Moderato
2. Andante
3. Rondo, con spirito

Jerome Wigler, Violin  
George Reeves, Piano





DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE / PHOTO BY TRUDE FLEISCHMANN

# RAYMOND SWING



# RAYMOND SWING

## Seventy-Fifth Birthday Anniversary Album

Michael Hanu, Editor

### SIDE I

#### EXCERPTS FROM HIS HISTORIC BROADCASTS ON:

1. President Roosevelt's Quarantine Speech, Oct. 10, 1937
2. Flight from the Nazis of Sigmund Freud, June 7, 1938
3. Munich Pact, Oct. 18, 1938
4. Ribbentrop-Molotov Non-Aggression Pact, Aug. 21, 1939
5. Nazi Invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg, May 10, 1940
6. Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945
7. Comments on the Atomic Age, 1945



Raymond Swing

#### BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Raymond Swing, who was seventy-five years old on March 25, 1962, started as a journalist in 1906 and as a broadcaster in the United States in 1936. He spent eighteen years as a foreign correspondent, covered half of World War One from Germany, and all of World War Two as a commentator in the United States. He was commentator for CBS, then Mutual, then the Blue Network and was still chief political commentator for the Voice of America in 1962 after two terms of service in that post totalling more than five years.

Mr. Swing was brought up at Oberlin, Ohio, where his father was a professor of Church History and his grandfather had been professor of homiletics. As a boy he did not know whether he wished to be a writer or a composer. He studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, but he left Oberlin at the end of his freshman year and entered newspaper work that year in Cleveland, Ohio, a decision that settled which career he was to follow. However his violin sonata and other compositions showed his continued interest in writing music.

Mr. Swing became one of the authoritative news commentators during World War Two, was heard the world over through the OWI, also through the British Broadcasting Corporation which he served for eleven years as its first American commentator. Mr. Swing has been given six honorary degrees by American universities and colleges and decorated by France with the Legion of Honor, by Belgium with the Order of Leopold and by Norway with the Order of King Kaakon.

His violin sonata has had four nationwide broadcast reproductions.

#### TEXT OF SWING INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARIES

##### INTRODUCTION

This is Raymond Swing...And in this way so many of my news commentaries were introduced. I have made

a selection of excerpts from a few of those commentaries starting with President Roosevelt's Quarantine Speech and ending with the one made on the night of his death.

Here is the first, from a commentary delivered October 10th, 1937.

##### FIRST COMMENTARY

President Roosevelt's Quarantine Speech, Oct. 10, 1937.

World events this past week have become home events. President Roosevelt's "quarantine" speech in Chicago, not only has been the most important happening in the world, it has made it necessary for American citizens to take foreign happenings into account and decide what they want done about them.

I am going to examine the speech first of all as it would look to a foreign correspondent. In that perspective, it seems to me the speech says three things. It makes one implicit announcement, and that is that the United States will take part in a nine power conference over the Chinese crisis. Then, it presents a fundamental question to the American people, asking in the light of what is going on if they are ready to abandon the philosophy isolation and neutrality and to replace it with the philosophy of peaceful cooperation in support of international law. And finally, it is not, as so many Europeans have read it, a bid for world leadership. It does not rally Americans to head a great crusade.

So it is not a Wilsonian speech, transposed from the pages of 1916 into today's book. It is a speech which asks other countries what they are willing to do. And it says that if they will make up their minds, we are ready to discuss cooperation with them, not to make war, or do anything that would lead to war, but to collaborate in action which does take measures against treaty breaking and aggression.



## INTRODUCTION TO SECOND COMMENTARY

The second excerpt is from a commentary made on June 7, 1938, after the flight from the Nazis of Sigmund Freud to London.

### SECOND COMMENTARY

Flight from the Nazis of Sigmund Freud, June 7, 1938

Now and again something happens which shines like a bolt of lightning and for a moment makes things clear that were dark before. Such a moment was the arrival in London of Dr. Sigmund Freud, refugee from Vienna and father of psychoanalysis. His flight from Greater Germany and his finding the right of asylum in England threw a light on both countries. You may think I am stretching a simile in saying this is like a bolt of lightning. For to all opponents of Nazism and friends of democracy there is no need for an illuminating flash of light to show up Nazi bigotry or the survival of freedom in Great Britain.

Why was there no room for Freud in Nazi Germany? Not because he was a Jew, for there are still hundreds of thousands of Jews in Germany. It was because he is a Jew who at the same time is an intellectual giant. The price he would have had to pay to remain in Germany was to have given up his work. Germany had no use for it. It despised it, partly because it is the work of a Jew, partly because it is work beyond the frontier of accepted ideas.

Of all the contributions to speculative thought made in this generation, two stand out as having already had the greatest influence, psychoanalysis and the theory of relativity. And Germany might have been the home of the founders of both of these schools of discovery. We in America are enriched in that Professor Einstein is now to be an American and yesterday was here to deliver the commencement address at Swarthmore. England gets Sigmund Freud. And Germany is happy to have lost them both. Germany does not want the speculative mind. It doesn't want it unless its speculations glorify the fascist state. And it doesn't want it if the creative mind is that of a Jew.

I was in Berlin under the Weimar Republic, when a mass meeting was called in the great Philharmonic Hall, which is to Berlin what Carnegie Hall is to New York. And the purpose of this meeting was to protest against the relativity theory. Speakers actually set out to disprove that theory before the huge meeting. The hall was packed with people who shouted deliriously and thought they were putting down the relativity theory. Those people are the ones who later became the intellectual yardsticks of the Nazi revolution. It has set up a social system where ideas can be shouted down, persecuted, forbidden. Books can be burned. In other words, it is a system where the free exploration of the mind not only is not welcome, it is subversive. The frontiers of the mind are closed.

### INTRODUCTION TO THIRD COMMENTARY

The next commentary was a discussion of the Munich Pact made after my return from Europe, on October 18, 1938.

### THIRD COMMENTARY

Munich Pact, October 18, 1938

The state of the drama of Berchtesgaden, Godesberg and Munich is too vast to be seen at a glance. Let us look first at results. Try to think back six months ago when the crisis was first evident. If anyone had told you then that by tonight Czechoslovakia was to be deserted by its allies, dismembered at their request, that Germany in this short time was to be given mastery of Eastern Europe and so of the European continent, that France would voluntarily step down from being a first class power to being shut up in western Europe with only Britain and no further allies to secure it, if anyone had said this would happen at the point of the gun, in terms of an ultimatum, and would be accepted by Britain and France without the firing

of a shot, you would have thought such a prophet was mad.

I must do my best to explain how this incredible thing has happened. It would be convenient to be able to explain it all in terms of treachery. Well, I believe there has been some treachery, but that does not explain it. It would be convenient to explain it in terms of a victory for peace; how glad I would be if I could for a moment regard the peace that has been bought as either lasting or indeed anything but a peace of decaying morals and mounting tyranny. But these key phrases are not enough to explain what happened.

I think one must start with the examination of air power. Mr. Chamberlain decided to go to Berchtesgaden, on the urging of Premier Deladier of France, on the day that the British and French governments were officially informed that in event of war Italy would fight on the side of Germany. If Italy came in, the British and French air forces in the west of Europe would not have been equal to the air forces against them. The decision to carve up Czechoslovakia and make a present of part of it to Germany was due in the first place to a sense that the British and French air forces were inadequate to protect their home countries, and that the Soviet air force was not to be relied on.

The Czechs were not consulted about their sacrifice. Nor was the true military position ever at the disposal of the Anglo-French conference where the decisions were made. Here is where I think the word "treachery" is not too strong. I was in Prague on September twenty-first, the day when the Czechs submitted to the Anglo-French program calling for dismemberment. Czechoslovakia was ready to fight. It was ready to go through war, even through ruination, if in the end it might live its democratic life. But Benes on that day was told that he must accept the Anglo-French plan, and that if he did not, Britain would not support France in any war that ensued, and so France would consider Czechoslovakia the guilty party and would not fulfil its treaty obligations. These were the two threats that were used to club down President Benes.

The fact is that the French cabinet and the British government had neither of them authorized that Benes should be threatened as he was. And when the French cabinet was told what Bonnet had done, that he had exceeded his instructions, six ministers resigned, including Reynaud, Mondel and Sarraut.

There are many aspects of this peace of Munich which I should like to stress. I want to say with all possible emphasis that the people of Britain and France did not demand this peace. They were magnificent. God knows they did not want war, but they were ready for war after Godesberg, and they knew what it was to have been about, a war to keep one man from dominating Europe. They looked into the coming horrors of that war grimly and unflinchingly. One could never have asked more from a nation than the British and French gave in those days of the crisis. When they were given peace they rejoiced. Why not? They had been told by their leaders they must face war and they faced it. They were then told by their leaders they need not fight, that a peace had been made for them that was peace with honor. They believed it. But now they are beginning to see that something about it all is false and humiliating. They begin to see that they lost to Hitler because they were weak in armaments, and yet in losing, they have made Hitler relatively still stronger.

There will be war if Britain and France stand up to Germany. And it will be fought at far worse terms than if it had been fought this summer. But if there is not a war, they are junior partners of Nazi Germany, putting off the evil day when they themselves will be victims of German expansion. It is on a Europe in such a dilemma that the peace of Munich has dawned.

### INTRODUCTION TO FOURTH COMMENTARY

The next excerpt is from a broadcast delivered



the evening of the announcement of the Ribbentrop-Molotov non-aggression pact August 21, 1939.

#### FOURTH COMMENTARY

Ribbentrop-Molotov Non-Aggression Pact, August 21, 1939

The news has shaken the whole world that Germany and the Soviet Union are to sign a non-aggression pact this week. Herr von Ribbentrop will arrive in Moscow by air Wednesday. The treaty is to be signed while von Ribbentrop is in Moscow. On Sunday the conclusion was announced of a Soviet-Nazi trade agreement, not in itself a highly important accord, but important for what it might bring in its train. Then Pravda, the communist newspaper in Moscow, wrote that this agreement "may become a serious step in the direction of further improvement, not only of economic but of political relations between the USSR and Germany." And then, within a day the news comes out of the most sensational happening, I might say the most disturbing happening, since World War One.

If it is too early to estimate the long-term meaning of a Soviet-Nazi agreement, it also is too early to know its immediate effect. The so-called peace front would seem to be smashed. Britain's and France's one chance of saving and maintaining Poland is gone, for they can hardly do it without Russian help. If the peace front is gone, Poland is gone. And not only Poland; Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, all will fall to the German system.

I am struck with recollections of the Genoa conference over seventeen years ago, which I attended, and where the Weimar Republic was trying to get fair treatment from the allies, and one day the German delegation slipped away to Rapallo and signed an agreement with the Soviet Union. At Genoa the poor exploited Weimar Republic was trying to say, "We're not so weak as you think. Suppose we unite with the despised Russians?"

Rapallo counted chiefly as an instance of very cheeky bad manners. But it sent chills down British and French spines all the same. But what must the spines in Britain and France be feeling now? In place of the Weimar Republic is Hitler's Germany. In place of the unorganized Soviet Union is perhaps the strongest land power in the world. It is something to give one the shivers. Anyone who was at Genoa, who remembers how the mighty French and the confident British felt then, will know that the news has, as the cables say, stunned London and Paris. They are not going to get over that stunned feeling for a long time to come. For they will feel that this time more than a small nation has been sold down the river. This time, western civilization as they know it may have been put under a suspended sentence of death.

#### INTRODUCTION TO FIFTH COMMENTARY

The next excerpt is from a broadcast delivered on May 10, 1940, the day Nazi Germany invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

#### FIFTH COMMENTARY

Nazi Invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg, May 10, 1940

This is a day to think, first of all, of the simple people who didn't merit the doom that befell them this morning, who hadn't made a botch of their personal lives nor of their collective lives and brought this doom upon themselves as a retribution. I refer to the honest, plain people of Holland and Belgium and Luxembourg, the sons at their posts, the families in their threatened homes. Every one of them is in danger of death; all of them already are gripped by the terror that strikes from the skies. If there are feelings left that can sympathize, these people command sympathy.

In the last thirty-one days, five peaceful, neutral, unoffending nations have been invaded, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. No thirty-one days in all history can duplicate that

record. To conquer and rule has been the theme of ambitious men and oligarchies throughout history. But never before has it operated on so many small and innocent nations so quickly. Of the twenty-one small nations of Europe, only eight survive with their sovereignty intact. They are Switzerland, Greece, Rumania, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Portugal.

The war as it began this morning was at once christened a blitzkrieg. Probably the name doesn't apply. What has begun today will be much longer than lightning and much deadlier. The Blitzkrieg did work against Poland which was beyond the reach of assistance. But both Holland and Belgium are within reach of it. They are getting it. The British sent fighter planes, also bombers to bomb Dutch airfields held by the Germans. Hitler in his order to the German troops in the west used these words: "The hour of the deciding fight for the future of the German nation has come." And at the close of the order are these words: "The fight beginning today decides the fate of the German nation for the next thousand years."

Tonight Winston Churchill is Prime Minister of Great Britain. He has been an ambitious man, but not in any flight of fancy could he have wished what has been committed to him today. For five years Winston Churchill lifted his eloquent warnings in and out of Parliament against the German menace and the crime of British unpreparedness. Then came Munich, a sell-out whose only excuse was British and French air inferiority. Thereafter the British prepared. But they did it without great speed of efficiency, and they were too late. They are far from catching up. Today has begun the decisive campaign of modern times. The Allies are handicapped, perhaps handicap is too kind a word, in the air and on land. It isn't Churchill's fault. And he takes charge in modern Britain's darkest hour. He has to guide the country through the reverses which he would have averted, and he must hold it together while the slow work of forging strength proceeds. It will be no day of elation for him. No day for congratulations, a day for those sturdier words, duty and devotion.

#### INTRODUCTION TO FINAL COMMENTARY

The final excerpt from one of my commentaries is the one delivered on April 12, 1945, the day of the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

#### FINAL COMMENTARY

Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945

The news of President Roosevelt's death comes like the message of the death, in his time, of Abraham Lincoln. For Mr. Roosevelt had piloted the nation if not through victory to within sight of victory. Lincoln's death removed him from leadership in the time of reconstruction. President Roosevelt's death has removed him from the greatest task ever faced by men, of making peace and building a secure and neighborly world. He has been one of the greatest leaders of his country. He has been one of the greatest leaders of humanity, and his name will be lustrous as a wise and patient leader in the greatest war ever fought for freedom. His death will bring grief not only to this country but wherever men prize freedom.

Mr. Roosevelt had two qualities that fitted him for the great task of world responsibility. He had unbounded faith in the right. And he had unending patience. He was willing to take his steps slowly, but he never was willing to change their direction. Both gifts, which are the essence of his political genius, were needed in world affairs even more than in domestic affairs.

It is natural that the accent tonight should be on loss, for President Roosevelt's death leaves a gap no men can fill. None in our political life has had his experience, his intimate knowledge of foreign affairs or of the problems of our alliances. None has the peculiar combination of his qualities.



But it would be out of perspective to stress the loss in disregard for the fulfilled life for which we owe so great a gratitude. President Roosevelt's gift to his fellow Americans is not easy to appraise in a few words. He has served the country so long that he has become inseparable from the political scene itself. It is hard to realize that he was a man who felt like you and me, worked hard like you and me, tried his best, resented his critics, yearned for his rest time. He had become an institution. He had been president for so long that he had ceased almost to receive the normal response one gives to a human being. But from his entry to the White House, which was in an hour of crisis, to his death, which was in an hour of infinitely greater crisis, he has led the nation steadily and always confidently. And in that time he has revised the nation's concepts about human rights in this country. He has seen the law books enriched with a great volume of legislation designed to improve the lot of common people. He has impressed on this hemisphere his desire for friendliness and fellowship. And he has impressed that desire on all the world.

The crushing weight of war leadership has rested on his mind and his body. Anyone who had seen him recently knows how it bore down and sapped his rugged vitality. The photographs of him at Yalta showed him a tired old man. The return voyage rested him and he seemed renewed again. And he had been at Warm Springs, to his associates were sure he would be able to continue to bear his burdens. But today they were lifted from him. And he is at rest.

But if he has left his burdens, he has left a heritage that promises to loom ever larger as he and his work are seen in historical perspective. It was a heritage wrought of his belief in common people. He trusted them, he loved them and he served them. He fought for them as their Commander in Chief. He designed his vision of peace for them. And his leadership brought them more substantial benefits than has the leadership of any man of his age.

#### FINAL EXCERPT

My last excerpt is not from a commentary, but from the introduction I wrote to a little book of commentaries on the atomic age published in 1945.

Comments on the Atomic Age, 1945

Early in the morning of August 24, 1945, eighteen days after Hiroshima, I went for a long walk, in the course of which I came to a decision to announce that night in my regular broadcast that thereafter I should devote each Friday's talk to the influence of the release of atomic energy on our time. During the walk I saw certain problems clearly. The atomic bomb had changed warfare and must change all social life. I recognized that I should have to discuss world government, since only through a world sovereignty could war be abolished and civilization preserved.

It would not be easy for me to do this. As a news analyst I had never espoused any cause or doctrine in my broadcasts, as I believed that I did not have a right to do so. Now I should do so because I did not have the right not to. The atomic bomb blew up any good reasons I once might have had against taking such a course. I was driven by a large logic into a lesser inconsistency. I could rationalize the decision by saying that the atomic bomb was the most important news of the age and that discussion of it was newsworthy. But I knew quite well I was changing the concept of my work and that I really had no alternative. I did not, I trust, puff up my importance. I believe I know the limits of my day's work and influence.

What I value primarily is the freedom to express myself without outside interference, which, to the credit of American radio--and my sponsors, I might say--I have been allowed and indeed encouraged to do. So I made my decision out of loyalty to my own vision of the truth. On that long, early-morning walk I saw that the human race was having

a single chance to survive and every member of it must do what he could to use the chance. I could answer for only one member, myself.

#### SIDE II

SONATA IN C MINOR FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO (composed in 1928)

by Raymond Swing

1. Moderato
2. Andante
3. Rondo, con spirito

Jerome Wigler, Violin

George Reeves, Piano



Raymond Swing

photo by Trude Fleischmann