

FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE

A Journey In Resistance, Triumphs and Spirituals.

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,
with Vanessa Wells Norris, Piano
Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, Seattle.
Sunday, February 10, 2013.**

Tayo Aluko. Writer, Performer. Tayo was born in Nigeria, and now lives in Liverpool. He worked until recently as an architect and property developer, with a special but as yet frustrated interest in eco-friendly construction. As a baritone, he has sung as soloist in British concert halls accompanied by orchestra, and has also sung in Germany, Ireland and Nigeria. He has performed lead roles in such operas and musicals as Nabucco, Kiss Me Kate and Anything Goes. His one-man play, CALL MR ROBESON won the Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence and Best Male Performer Award at the 2008 Brighton Festival Fringe, two Merit Awards for Excellence in London in 2010 and three awards at the London Ontario Fringe last June. He has performed the play around the UK, the United States of America, Canada and Nigeria, and at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2012 for his 50th birthday. FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE has been performed in three continents. He researched, wrote and narrated to camera a piece on West African History before the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which forms part of the permanent exhibit at Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. His fifteen-minute play, HALF MOON, which also deals with ancient Africa for a modern young audience has been performed several times in the UK.

Vanessa Wells Norris, Piano. Vanessa is a native of Philadelphia and a graduate of Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where she was a pipe organ major. She is a music educator and currently on the staff of Westgate Chapel in Edmonds, Washington as creative Ministry Coordinator, where she plays piano, produces and directs drama. She is a prolific writer and arranger, and a member and accompanist of the Sound of the North West, in which she also sings several songs. She is the mother of three musicians

Forthcoming Performances of Call Mr. Robeson include:

Feb 16: ArtSpring, Salt Spring Island, BC; **Feb 20:** Intrepid Theatre, Victoria, BC; **Feb 23:** Douglas College, New Westminster, BC. **Feb 24:** East Bay Center for Performing Arts, Richmond, CA;
Feb 26: Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC; **Feb 28, Mar 1:** Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Jose.
March – July: UK Tour; **August 16:** Gabriola Festival, Gabriola, BC

Tayo Aluko & Friends

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