

Greetings and Welcome.

I am privileged to present Darryl Taylor, who I first met and heard sing about five years ago when he was a phenomenal tenor, in Cambridge. He kindly invited me to participate in a conference in his home town of Irvine, California, of music by Black Composers, and I found myself on stage with some phenomenal musicians from all over America. I was as much in awe of them as I am of Darryl, who has since metamorphosed into a countertenor of no less amazing credentials. I am sure you will enjoy his voice, and I hope that one day he will grace the stage in the main hall. Thanks to Raewyn Bailey, who I first worked with years ago in Chester. She has braved an accident and severe pain but has risen to the challenge of playing some very challenging music, as well as composing a new piece and arranging a song for me. I hope you enjoy the evening.

Tayo Aluko was born in Nigeria, and now resides 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. CALL MR ROBESON won the Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence and Best Male Performer Award at the 2008 Brighton Festival Fringe, and two Merit Awards for Excellence in London in 2010. He has performed the play around the UK, the United States of America, Canada and Nigeria. His other piece titled I GOT A HOME IN BARACK: a talk about Black Political Resistance, illustrated with Spirituals has also 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. A song from his CD, RECALLING ROBESON is featured as the July 2008 song of the month on the Labor Notes website.

Darryl Taylor has sung in concert halls across the United States and Europe, including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Royce Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, and Barcelona's Palau de la Música. His numerous tours of Spain have garnered him particular praise. His recordings, Love Rejoices: Songs of H. Leslie Adams (Albany Records), and Dreamer: A Portrait of Langston Hughes (Naxos Records, American Classics Series) have received lavish acclaim. 2006 saw the release of three CDs, *Poetry Preludes: Music of Richard Thompson* and *Fields of Wonder: Songs of Robert Owens*, both on Albany Records, and *Louis Moreau Gottschalk: Complete Orchestral Works and Escénas Campestres Cubanas* with the Grammy-nominated Hot Springs Festival Orchestra (Naxos Records, American Classics Series). Forthcoming in January 2011 is *How Sweet the Sound – a charm of spirituals* (Albany Records). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Darryl Taylor holds degrees from the University of Southern California and the University of Michigan. He is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon Music Fraternity and Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honors Society. Dr. Taylor on the music faculty of the University of California, Irvine. <http://www.darryltaylor.com>

Raewyn Bailey, born in New Zealand, studied piano at the University of Auckland with concert pianist, Professor Janetta McStay, gained a B.MUS, and Performance Diploma (hons) and performed her piano compositions on NZ radio. In England she studied with John Lill, Kendall Taylor and Eva Warren. She performs regularly in the North West with her Saxophone duo partner, Helen Southall, for whom she has composed and arranged a number of works. Additional compositions include a string quartet, theatre pieces, a number of art songs for different voices, the most major being, *Qui n'aurait autre deport*, for the counter tenor, Nicholas Clapton; a trio for clarinet, mezzo and piano: choral works and most recently her international award winning works, *Tales from Templar Times* and *Scenes from the Causse du Larzac*. She is currently studying for a PhD in composition at the University of Liverpool where she has been a piano teacher to degree students for twenty years.

Tayo Aluko and Friends Present
Black Like Me
An evening of songs for voice by Black Composers.

Tayo Aluko, baritone
Darryl Taylor, countertenor
Raewyn Bailey, piano

PROGRAMME

from *Three Bronte Lieder op. 18* Robert Owens
The Old Stoic
Tell Me, Tell Me...

Mr. Taylor

Hunger Gordon Johnstone
Iya Ayo Bankole
Rise Up, Mother Africa!
Words and melody : Tayo Aluko
Arrangement: Raewyn Bailey

Mr. Aluko

Creole Girl H. Leslie Adams
Prayer
For you there is no song
Sence You Went Away

Mr. Taylor

Death of An Old Seaman Cecil Cohen
Otito Inu Juwon Ogungbe
"Hiawatha's Vision" from *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Mr. Aluko

A Tribute to Toussaint L'Ouverture Raewyn Bailey
Mrs Bailey

Steal Away arr. Maria Corley
Git on Board arr. Thomas Kerr, Jr.
Lord, I'll Go arr. Jacqueline Hairston

Mr. Taylor

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