

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,

With Michael Conliffe, Piano

Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan, Sunday 1st May, 2011

Greetings and welcome. Now that the Royal Wedding is over, time to get down to earth again, on this May Day, a day which marked internationally as Labour Day, where the struggles of ordinary working people worldwide are recognised. Paul Robeson always participated in these commemorations, and in fact there are photographs of him addressing rallies in Scotland for example, and singing to hundreds of thousands of workers, showing solidarity with them as an American. His solidarity with Welsh workers too is the stuff of legend. Would it that such solidarity is shown today – as for example with the Head Teachers who have announced a strike ballot today, in protest at the loss of pensions. Then there are the British Airways staff, whose struggle continues. And of course, those in other parts of the world, where being trade unionists can be very dangerous, and even life threatening. I trust that the bravery being shown by people in the Middle East and elsewhere will wake all of us up and inspire us to stand in solidarity with workers like Robeson did – not only here in Great Britain, but worldwide. I hope you enjoy the show.