

# **CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.**

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Michael Conliffe, Piano**

**Junction, Goole, 29 January 2011**

**Greetings.** The entire cabinet resigned last night, and the leader has promised wholesale reforms. Not here in Britain unfortunately, but in Egypt, where their beleaguered president is feeling the pressure of people having their say on the streets. Here in the UK today, trade unionists have joined with students to voice their anger at student fees increases, and the unions themselves are gearing up for possible action over the proposed widespread cuts which herald hard times ahead, which our cabinet assure us we are all in together. As the Prime Minister and the Chancellor get the thumbs up for their policies from those paragons of community banking, the IMF and the OECD at the World Economic Conference in Davos, we contemplate the likelihood of those that beg to differ here having their views listened to and acted upon. If Paul Robeson were with us today, I reckon he would have been on the streets of Manchester or London lending his voice to those who feel that the necessary cuts would be achieved by stopping the expenditure of billions in Afghanistan and Iraq, but who curiously are not much heard these days, because they are supposed to be loony fringe elements. As Robeson's story tells us, he was seen in that light in his time, but his voice remains deeply resonant and relevant to us today. I hope it moves us to join the chorus of disapproval and take action, be it on the streets or elsewhere. Please enjoy the show.