CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko, With Michael Conliffe, Piano Harrow Arts Centre, Wednesday 2nd March 2011

Greetings. Things are hotting up in Libya. British and other foreign oil workers have been evacuated, and other migrants are fending for themselves as best they can. Meanwhile, Gadaffi and his opponents are squaring up to each other with huge arsenals at their disposal, while Western powers discuss their own military responses, trying to give the impression that freedom and democracy is their primary concern. I doubt that they can say what I believe Robeson once said with as much sincerity as he did: "I am a friend of the people of Israel, but not the oil interests." All those decades ago, I am also sure that he also urged Western governments to trade more in health, education, food and shelter than in the military hardware that would keep Gadaffi and his like in power for so long, at the expense of the people's wellbeing. As our leaders continue to tell us that there is no alternative to the savage cuts that threaten us (but not banking and other bosses) here in the UK, we have the chance to join those who voice their opposition to these policies, in all our interests. I hope Robeson's story inspires us to fearlessly continue the fight that he fought on our behalf. I hope you enjoy the show.