

**The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos  
and**

**The MUSON Centre proudly present:**

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

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Babatunde Sosan, Piano**

**Agip Hall, MUSON Thursday September 28, 2009**

Greetings, and welcome.

A few days ago, I had the wonderful experience of going back to my old school, King's College, to share the story of Paul Robeson with the current generation of "future leaders". Being on stage there some 32 years after leaving, and experiencing a standing ovation from a hall full of young men who naturally had not heard of Paul Robeson but now seemed genuinely moved and inspired by his story was particularly gratifying and poignant.

Even though I and many who went before and since were once future leaders of our country, too many of whom have perhaps failed to carry out in full those words in our school song: urging us to pay "service to the living, honour to our dead", I can only hope that some of those young men, in learning about Paul Robeson, might be inspired to play their own part in making a future Nigeria a better place than it is today.

As for those of you here today, I hope that you will enjoy the performance, and yourselves be re-energised in whatever you can to "do the state some service".