

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko, with Michael Conliffe, Piano
Neuadd Dwyfor, Pwllheli, Friday January 27 2012**

Greetings and Croeso. With the outrage being expressed at the current banking news, it can easily be forgotten that today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. Whilst we are rightly appalled by the inequities in today's society, the day is meant to commemorate not just the atrocities committed against the Jews in Europe in the 1940s, but those committed more recently, and continue to be perpetrated against innocent people around the world today. It is of course easy to forget, and dangerous too – just as easy as Paul Robeson seems to have been forgotten. And dangerous to continue to ignore the message that he preached urgently in his time, in word, song and deed. That we are all brothers, that an injury to one is an injury to all, and that we must all stand together to fight for peace, justice and equality around the world. This requires sacrifice, and acts of bravery, large and small. Whilst we can not all be as brave as Paul Robeson and others we admire, we each have it in us to show solidarity with oppressed people, like he did. Today, this might involve being so controversial as standing with the people of Palestine against the tyranny of the Israeli state, and this might bring criticism from many quarters. But as Robeson showed, when one believes that an injustice exists, one should not simply walk on by. I hope his example inspires us to be brave in our own way. I hope you enjoy show.