

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

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Michael Conliffe, Piano**

**Web Theatre, Newtownards, Wednesday 23rd March, 2011**

**Greetings and Welcome.** I wonder how many ordinary people will feel better as a result of today's new budget. I guess very few indeed. Cuts, job losses, further contraction of the economy and uncertainty still loom. So does a persistent feeling of unfairness, as people feel that these troubles have been brought on due to no fault of the ordinary hard-working person, but that of the banks, and it is their bosses who appear to be living on a different planet by continuing to "clean up" with mega bonuses. Bosses of privatised utility companies also threaten to relocate their businesses abroad if they are taxed too much. Our political leaders don't appear to have the guts to resist these threats, but instead offer to tax private airplanes. Big Deal! I heard recently that one of the fighter jets currently operating in Libya costs about £35,000 to run AN HOUR! Had Gaddafi not been armed to the teeth with hardware supplied by our governments, such massive expenditure and destruction would not have been necessary. Meanwhile, back here, trade unions are gearing up to march on Saturday to send out a strong message saying they do not accept that there is no alternative to current government policies. Paul Robeson would have joined them, I am sure. (Look at my set after the performance and you'll see the odd picture of him on a demo). Michael and I plan to join them in Belfast, in the spirit of Robeson, and we hope we'll see one or two of you there. Enjoy the show.