

A TASTE OF THE FRINGE IN OLNEY
Tayo Aluko, baritone, with Mary Coates, Piano
and Naomi Paul
Olney Parish Church, Saturday March 10 2012

Greetings and Welcome. Some bad news came out of my home country recently. Two European hostages were killed by members of an extremist sect in Nigeria. Thankfully, the members of the rescuing forces were unharmed. This, you will be glad to know, includes the Nigerians. My sympathy for the slain criminals extends at least to the fact that they were nothing more than pawns in bigger people's power games, and religion is nothing more than a front for the doing of evil. We saw that in Northern Ireland, and we are seeing it in the Middle East – worryingly between Israel and Iran, and around the world. With words, music and humour, we remind ourselves that the world is, and should be one big, happy family, and we should all do what we can to support each other, and to stand up and fight for others who are oppressed and/or less privileged, like Advantage Africa does. I thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the show. Tayo Aluko

Tayo Aluko. Writer, Performer, Producer. Tayo was born in Nigeria, and now lives in Liverpool. He worked until recently as an architect and property developer, with a special but as yet frustrated interest in eco-friendly construction. As a baritone, he has sung as soloist in British concert halls accompanied by orchestra, and has also sung in Germany, Ireland and Nigeria. He has performed lead roles in such operas and musicals as Nabucco, Kiss Me Kate and Anything Goes. CALL MR ROBESON won the Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence and Best Male Performer Award at the 2008 Brighton Festival Fringe, and two Merit Awards for Excellence in London in 2010. He has performed the play around the UK, the United States of America, Canada and Nigeria, and at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2012, for his 50th birthday. FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE: a talk about Black Political Resistance, illustrated with Spirituals has also been performed in three continents. He researched, wrote and narrated to camera a piece on West African History before the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which forms part of the permanent exhibit at Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. A song from his CD, RECALLING ROBESON is featured as the July 2008 song of the month on the Labor Notes website.

Naomi Paul

Naomi has been delighting audiences ;performing cabaret, comedy and the spoken word for two and a half years. Based in Birmingham, she has performed at the Edinburgh and Henley Fringe Festivals, and at Leicester Comedy Festival. She has also performed at the well known Stand Comedy Club in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and is building up quite a reputation on the circuit, performing in places as diverse as pubs and churches. It has been said of her work that she makes people "laugh, smile and think".

Mary Coates.

Originally from Pinner, Middlesex, Mary is an ordained Baptist Minister, working part time for Churches Together in Buckinghamshire. She has been playing piano since she was four years old, and now passes on her knowledge to young and old students in her new home town of Milton Keynes. She is a member of the Horizon Ensemble, which regularly sells out The Well at Willen.

Tayo Aluko & Friends
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