

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

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Michael Conliffe, Piano**

**The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, Tuesday 3rd May, 2011**

**Greetings and welcome.** GOT HIM!! the headlines said, now that as we understand it, Osama Bin Ladin has been assassinated. Most of the world is happy, including most British Muslims, I understand, although some retain some doubt over the veracity of reports, especially as there is no body to be seen. Why anybody should doubt the truth of what the American and other western governments say is understandable, when for example the reason we were given for invading Iraq was Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction which he could have deployed against us in 45 minutes. People will now be wondering whether all the lives lost, all the destruction, all the billions spent, were as necessary as we were told they always were, and how soon it will all now stop. Paul Robeson in his lifetime, got into trouble for always demanding peace and justice, and those who speak like him today also find themselves sidelined and ridiculed. Porthcawl and the Welsh had a great tradition of standing by Robeson fighters like him, and workers worldwide. Whilst such solidarity and activism appears to be very much on the wane today, Robeson's story, and the actions of those brave people in the Middle East and elsewhere serve as inspiration to us, and a reminder of how we can change the world if we are brave enough to stand for what is right and just, individually and collectively. I hope you enjoy the show.