

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,

With Michael Conliffe, Piano

Rich Mix, Bethnal Green, London

Thursday – Saturday July 29 – 31, 2010

Greetings and Welcome. Last weekend, I experienced one of the highlights of my life so far, and that was meeting Paul Robeson's granddaughter, Susan Robeson at the Big Pit – a mining museum in South Wales. She is visiting Wales from New York giving a number of talks about her grandfather, and last Saturday she introduced her grandfather's favourite film, Proud Valley, shot in Wales about a mining community suffering and fighting to stay alive in the depression of the 1920s. It was wonderful to witness the love that the Welsh have for Paul being transmitted to and experienced by his granddaughter almost seventy years after the film was made. And Susan has every reason to be proud of her grandfather, who didn't die a wealthy man but left behind him his dream of a better life for people worldwide. As the clouds gather over us heralding difficult times, let's hope our leaders don't lead us into a full-scale depression. With enough of us taking Mr. Robeson's inspiration and fighting for peace and justice in whatever way we can, perhaps our own grandchildren will be proud of us too.