

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

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Michael Conliffe, Piano**

**The Brindley, Runcorn, Friday 1st April, 2011**

**Greetings and welcome.** It would appear that the numbers of people to be affected by the government-imposed cuts grows daily, whilst the wealth accumulated by others at the top end of the financial tree grows by ridiculously and undeservedly obscene amounts. The impression is that the super-rich, and those that allow this system to persist, don't care a damn. The latest I've heard is that a growing number of private landlords are to stop renting homes to people on housing benefit, which will likely lead to an increase in homelessness, in the beacon of democracy. Last weekend, hundreds of thousands of people marched in London and Belfast to send a message loud and clear that they wish to resist the attacks on the lives of ordinary people, working or otherwise. The protest marches have come and gone, and all that seems to be spoken about is the alleged violence of some of the protesters. Paul Robeson, whose story we are sharing today, knew a thing or two about violence – he suffered it from people protesting against his message of peace and equality. He spoke tirelessly against violence visited by his and other governments on innocent people within and outside their borders. And he stood in solidarity with people who resisted. There will be more resistance here in the coming months, just as we are witnessing worldwide, and we can also stand in solidarity with the workers when they withdraw their labour. I hope you enjoy the show.