Greetings and Welcome. Several thousand feet deep down in the bowels of the earth, the miners - good, decent working men are trapped, certain to die, unless a miracle happens. They know that between them and freedom lies several tons of hard rock. They find some explosives, but if someone sets it off, he dies. They draw lots. The unlucky one has a young wife. Up steps our hero, he blows the rock away, and himself with it, and the others walk free. Not Chile, but a coal mine in Wales. Our hero is David Goliath as played by Paul Robeson. He sacrificed his life for others’ freedom. I hadn’t realized until the Chilean story reminded me of the Robeson film, Proud Valley, how his character’s story mirrored that of the real man – he sacrificed his wealth, his career, his health because he knew he had to say and do the things he did so that one day his people in America, his friends in Wales and all over the world could be free from exploitation and injustice. It seems we are coming dangerously close to reliving the conditions that existed in the hard times of the past, and we definitely need heroes to stand up against the forces of greed and injustice that are lining up against ordinary decent folk. Not that many names come to mind immediately, but I am sure that Robeson’s story will inspire some to discover the hero in themselves and do what they can to continue the good fight that he and others fought so we can be free today.

Thanks to individual donors: Dr. Tony Gilbertson, Peter Brown, George Fox, Han Duijvendak & Lisa Davies, Dorothy Taylor, Jane Weeks, Elspeth McLean, Carol Maggin (Liverpool), Ms. Lande Abisogun (London) Charles Boylan (Vancouver), Sinead Larkin (Derry), Jan Pell & Mike Scholes, Jill Hyde, Ms. Toyin Olawoye (Lagos), Anne & Tony Brooks (Builth Wells), Kathy Jarrett-Thorpe (Skelmersdale). Chris & Carl May (Newcastle) Toyin Olawoye (Lagos), Dr. Michael Etomi (Charlotte, NC), Dr. Funke Adedeji (Notts.)

Tayo Aluko. Writer and Performer. Tayo was born in Nigeria, and now resides 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 also 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, Best Male Performer Award, and a nomination for the Best Show at the 2008 Brighton Festival Fringe. He has performed the play around the UK and to audiences on both coasts of the United States of America and Canada, and in Lagos, Nigeria. Tayo’s other piece titled I GOT A HOME IN BARACK: 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 is now part of the permanent exhibit at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool. His CD, RECALLING ROBESON is featured as the song of the month on the Labor Notes website in July 2008.

Michael Conliffe, Piano and original incidental music
Mike started playing piano by ear as child, playing gospel in church and later discovering Jazz, which he went on to study at Liverpool Community College and Leeds college of Music. As well as playing regularly in Jazz festivals round the UK, Mike has toured both coasts of America with Call Mr Robeson. Mike also performs in another two-hander, a Jazz drama God Bless the Child about Billie Holliday, in which he also acts. He plays regularly as soloist and with Swing and Function bands at weddings, other celebrations and at corporate events. Mike also teaches piano to aspiring Pop, Blues and Jazz musicians and to singer/song writers.
Olusola Oyeleye, Director and Dramaturg  Olusola works across a wide spectrum of arts genres including opera, music theatre, and dance. She was resident director on Trevor Nunn's production of George Gershwin's musical *Porgy and Bess*, and was English National Opera's first black staff director. She has directed productions for Adzido Pan African Dance Company at the Royal Festival Hall. She directed Don Kinch's *Coming Up For Air* (UK tour), Anita Franklin’s *The Resurrection of Roscoe Powell* (Soho Theatre), *The Shelter* for the Royal Shakespeare Company Early Stages Festival (Barbican Theatre), and *Medea*, Ariya at (Royal National Theatre Studio); *The Playground* by Beverley Naidoo, at Polka Theatre, was a Time Out Pick of the Year. *Dido and Aeneas*, Ariya (Tricycle & BAC). Productions abroad include: Akin Euba’s *Orunmila’s Voices: Songs from the Beginning of Time* in New Orleans, and *Chaka: An Opera in Two Chants* in St Louis. For the British Council *Write a Story*, Ghana and *Twelfth Night*, Zimbabwe. Her poetry has been set to music by Akin Euba. Her most recent production, *High Life* by Lizzy Dijeh has completed a successful run at the Hampstead Theatre. Olusola is the artistic director of Ariya, the executive director of BushBoy Productions and the associate producer with Collective Artistes.


Future Performances include:
October 16: Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells, Mid Wales
October 23: Blaenavon Workmen’s Hall, Blaenavon, South Wales
November 4: Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford
November 27: Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
December 11: Lincoln Performing Arts Centre, Lincoln
January 25, 2011: Darlington Arts Centre
January 26: The Met, Bury
January 27: The Lowry, Salford

Tayo Aluko and Friends
24-26 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5RY  Tel: 0151 707 8187
info@tayoalukoandfriends.com  www.callmrobeson.com