

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,

With Michael Conliffe, Piano

Theatro Technis, 4 – 23 January 2010, Week 1

Greetings. VAT went up to 20% today, so from my simple point of view, what it means is that life just got more expensive for the vast majority of us. There will be a few who would barely notice a difference in their bank accounts and their lifestyles, except maybe to occasionally notice a growing number of homeless, poor and disgruntled people around them. Many of these super-rich helped put us in the situation we are in today, but others are simply lucky, like talented sportspeople and entertainers. A few of these care about the majority, and sometimes even speak out in one way or another. None more so than the one-time super-rich entertainer/sportsman/activist Paul Robeson, who we are celebrating tonight. Were he around today, he would certainly be one of the most vocal of critics of governments and establishments here and elsewhere, knowing full well that his career and his life were being put in jeopardy by his pronouncements. I hope his story inspires more of us to lend our voices to those who fight for the working and vulnerable people here and worldwide who need heroes to fight for them. I hope you enjoy the show.