

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,

With Michael Conliffe, and Roland Perrin (11th & 12th), Piano

Theatro Technis, 4 – 23 January 2010, Week 2

Greetings. We have seen, first of all in Pakistan, and a few days later in America how people with dissenting voices put themselves in danger, not only from the establishment whom they challenge, but also people who are either unstable, misguided, and often downright pernicious. It has been inspiring to hear other politicians and commentators in Pakistan for example say that they will continue to speak truth to power, regardless of the threat to their lives. This is what Paul Robeson bravely did in his time, risking his life, his health and his career. What with VAT increases, cuts in services, job losses and continued massive spending on overseas warfare, we are rapidly approaching times when we need more and more people to speak truth to power, regardless of the consequences. I hope his story inspires you to do just that, however loudly, quietly, subversively or openly, for we need to end this violence on our rights, "by any means necessary". I hope you enjoy the show.