

# **I GOT A HOME IN BARACK**

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,  
with Dave Posmontier and Kay Conti, Piano**

**The Lighthouse Theatre, Trenton NJ**

**September 12, 2009**

## **Greetings and welcome.**

Up until recently, the only things I knew about Trenton were that it's on the line between New York and Philadelphia (I did that train journey in February this year), and that Paul Robeson's first girlfriend attended teacher training school there in about 1917. However, it is firmly on the mental and emotional map for me now because this is where the U.S. premiere of "Home in Barack" is happening, thanks to the wonderful medium of the internet connecting two Paul Robeson fans and performers: Harry Jackendoff and I. Paul Robeson is a hero and example to both of us: a black man and a white man, and he has inspired us and thousands, of all races around the globe, to create art intended to make the world a better place. HOME IN BARACK is one such creation, and it pays tribute not only to Robeson, but to the millions who went before, who created the wonderful art of the African American Spiritual, and who fought against white political and economic domination through the ages. They helped lay the foundations for your new President, who for some reason is causing not a little controversy, with this crazy notion of wishing to provide universal health care in America. Not an original concept, but a brave one nonetheless in the current climate. One that African activists in America and all over the world have aspired to and consequently been called irresponsible, misguided, or even, horror of horrors: revolutionary socialists – so your President does actually belong to a great tradition: only we mustn't use the "S" word with him, or overplay "The Black Thang!..."

Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy the music, and the words, and that it entertains, educates and provokes, without being too controversial...

Peace...