

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

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Doug Balfour/Diane Lines, Piano**

**The Cultch, Vancouver, 11 – 14 February 2010**

**Greetings and Welcome.** Two years ago, I performed in a mini festival called the *“not part of”* festival: not part of the large Manchester (UK) Arts Festival. At one of my two shows, three people turned up, but one of them happened to book me for a venue the following year which I sold out. Well, here in Vancouver, I gather there are quite a few people who are “not part of” the winter Olympics, and I hope that with some who may have come for the spectacle, I might get more than three in the audience this time round! Paul Robeson is certainly “not part of” mainstream society’s consciousness any more, but I’m sure that even those who didn’t know anything about him before today will agree after the performance that his story certainly deserves to be heard over and over, as should the stories of those who are not part of the Olympics. Great sportsman though he was, I suspect Robeson would have been on their side. Enjoy.

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