

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

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With Michael Conliffe, Piano

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Greetings. There are presumably a number of Egyptians in Wrexham, if not here at Yale College. They are likely to be spending much of their time glued to TV screens these days, watching their compatriots back home taking to the streets and achieving dramatic political change. They and other people from the Middle East probably wish they could be back out there being part of the action. Sadly, many Brits want foreigners out of Britain too, wondering why they are all here anyway. They complain about them taking British jobs, benefiting from social and health services and so on. And why don't they run their countries better anyway, considering all the aid they get from the West? Egypt has been receiving billions from the U.S for decades, but we now see that has been almost entirely to fund their army. Paul Robeson always spoke about the folly of concentrating resources on armaments rather than things like health and education, and now, with the Egyptian army refusing to turn on their people like the Burmese government did a few years ago, those billions may now be considered by some Americans as wasted. Diverting resources from war to more constructive uses like education and social services is an idea that many people think would be of benefit to people here in the UK, and are taking to the streets too. I am sure Robeson would join them, and I hope his story will inspire others here to do so too. Enjoy the show.