

THE MALTINGS THEATRE
AND TAYO ALUKO & FRIENDS PRESENT

A TRIBUTE TO LANGSTON HUGHES
IN VERSE AND SONG

WHAT HAPPENS?

MUSINGS & MEDITATIONS ON LIFE.

by Tayo Aluko
with THE GENTLEMEN OF JAZZ



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INTRODUCTION

Langston Hughes (1902 - 1967) never achieved commercial success in his lifetime yet remains to this day one of the most prolific and highly respected poets of all time. A leading light in the so called Harlem Renaissance, it is said his poetry is set to music more than any other American poet.

His oeuvre spans short stories, commercial librettos for musicals and opera, journalism and plays. He also wrote extensively on Jazz and was an innovator of 'Jazz Poetry'. It has been a difficult, but hugely enjoyable task to select a few examples of his work to present to you tonight.

ACT 1

ACT 2

Where not listed, assorted short excerpts are from his autobiographies 'The Big Sea' and 'I Wonder As I Wander'

Honeysuckle Rose

(Fats Waller and Andy Razaf)

Harlem

The Glory of Negro History

The Negro Speaks of Rivers

The Way You Look Tonight

(Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields)

Envoy to Africa

I Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)

(Duke Ellington & Paul Webster)

Blues At Dawn

Mother To Son

Blues in The Night

(Harold Arlen & Johnny Mercer)

Man of the Year for 1958

Theme For English B

Days of Wine and Roses

Park Benching

Madam's Calling Cards

I Guess I'm Just A Lucky So and So

(Duke Ellington & Mack David)

Cross

Sylvester's Dying Bed

Death of An Old Seaman

(Cecil Cohen, words: Langston Hughes)

I Got Plenty of Nothin'

(George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward)

Note on Commercial Theatre

Satin Doll

(Duke Ellington)

Four Way Celebration

Freedom Train

Don't Get Around Much Any More

(Duke Ellington & Bob Russell)

Strange Fruit

(Lewis Allan)

Justice

White Man

Miss Otis Regrets

(Cole Porter)

Comment on War

Body Here, Leg There

Some Day

They Can't Take That Away From Me

(George & Ira Gershwin)

Faults of The Soviet Union

Letter to the Academy

I Dream A World

(William Grant Still, words: Langston Hughes)

TAYO ALUKO

Tayo is best known as the writer, producer and performer of the multi-award winning musical monodrama *Call Mr. Robeson*, a show chosen by the Guardian's Michael Billington to top his list of shows to see in London in January 2011, and cited by BBC Radio 4's Loose Ends presenter Clive Anderson as one of the most memorable plays he saw in 2013.

As a classical baritone, Tayo has sung as soloist at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, and at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, where he was accompanied by the Hallé Orchestra. He has also performed lead roles in such operas and musicals as *Nabucco*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Anything Goes*.



THE GENTLEMEN OF JAZZ:

MIKE HARDY

Mike plays both classical and Jazz trumpet. He has performed in musicals from Glasgow to Pitlochry and has performed with musicians as diverse as Bobby Shew and Nigel Kennedy.

He has been a regular lead trumpet of the Scottish Sinfonia, the Edinburgh Light Orchestra and the Borders Big Band and has performed concerts with the Cambridge University Music Society, Peebles Orchestra and the Scottish Sinfonia.



ROSS MILLIGAN

Ross has worked with artists as diverse as trip hop artist Tricky, Horse, Pee Wee Ellis, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Emily Smith, The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Sir George Martin, The RSN, The Scottish Guitar Quartet the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and many west end and touring shows.

He recently composed the music for New York based film 'Butterflies of Bill Baker' and had music featured in many TV shows including *Eastbound and Down* (HBO), *Raising Hope* (Fox Network), *Disappeared*, *Houstons Remember Whitney*, *Nate Berkus Show*, *Next Big Thing NY*, *Hillbilly Blood*, *High School Confidential*, *What not to Wear*, National Geographic channel, Food Network and many more.



MATTHEW ROOKE

At the age of 17, Matthew won a Cleo Laine Award which enabled him to study contemporary jazz with many of the leading practitioners on the scene.

After completing an MA at St Andrews in 1986, Matthew was a Robert T Jones graduate fellow at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he also won the Abe Laboriel Bass Scholarship and a Professional Music Award.

Matthew is the current Artistic Director of The Maltings Theatre and also a Trustee of The Theatres Trust, the statutory National Advisory body for protecting theatres.



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with LIVE JAZZ BAND ACCOMPANIMENT

A TRIBUTE TO LANGSTON HUGHES

Performed and Created by: Tayo Aluko

The Gentlemen of Jazz: Mike Hardy (Piano/Trumpet)
Ross Milligan (Guitar)
Matthew Rooke (Double Bass/Piano)

Produced by: Tayo Aluko
Daniel Cox
Matthew Rooke

Lighting & Sound design: Jimmy Manningham

