TAYO ALUKO AND ANDREW BARNEY:
BLACK ACTIVIST SONG CYCLE

YOKO ONO LENNON LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Wednesday 8 October

Programme:

Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II *Ol Man River*

Robert Nathaniel Dett *Magnolias*

Black Activist Song Cycle (BASC):

***Andrew Barney and Tayo Aluko,* Abridged by Tayo Aluko from a letter by Pastor Daniels Ekarte** *Redress for my Brethren*

Lyrics by Tayo Aluko, Music by Andrew Barney *Silent statue*

Abridged by Tayo Aluko from a lecture by Professor Hakim Adi, Music by Andrew Barney and Tayo Aluko *We Don't Like History*

Abridged by Tayo Aluko from interviews by Mrs. Gee Walker, Music by Andrew Barney *I Chose to Forgive*

Andrew Barney *The Time Is Now*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow *Hiawatha's Vision*

Andrew Barney is an award-winning composer, pianist, polyglot, and proud Scouser of West African, Caribbean, and Irish heritage. He is the tenth and current Rushworth Composition Prize winner at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and has been commissioned to compose new works for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and Ensemble 10:10 to be performed in 2026.

Recent highlights include a *Macbeth*-inspired commission for Atticus Arts at the Shakespeare North Playhouse and his acclaimed project ORIGINS as an Opera North Resonance Artist, hailed as one of the programme's most successful sharings.

A gifted linguist who speaks ten languages, Andrew draws on his international experiences studying in Montréal and Granada to shape his artistic voice. Currently Pianist-in-Residence with the Arts Bar Orchestra and a member of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir, he also collaborates internationally, including ongoing performances in Switzerland with Venezuelan folk singer Mario Espinoza.

Tayo Aluko arrived in Liverpool in 1989 to complete his architecture studies. He had always been a keen amateur singer and stage actor, but after working as an architect for 15 years, he became a full-time artist in 2009.

He has written and performed three one-man plays since 2007: *Call Mr. Robeson*, *Just An Ordinary Lawyer* (both of which have toured internationally) and *Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown*, which was due to be performed in Canada earlier this year as part of a North American tour which was cancelled due to organisers' fears in the current hostile climate in the USA. He remains undeterred, and the play will be performed at the Capstone Theatre on Saturday October 11 as part of his Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Festival. Tayo has performed roles on TV, and in short and feature films. He hopes to write a TV series inspired by Pastor Daniels Ekarte.