

“Who is Andrew Feinstein?” the man asked as he approached the polling station in London on Thursday. “He’s running against Starmer, and is very pro-Palestine,” was my quick response, to which he said, “That’s good enough for me, he gets my vote.” Feinstein had challenged the then opposition leader to a televised debate, had shown up at all the hustings when Starmer wouldn’t attend a single one, and despite having been deliberately kept out of public consciousness throughout the campaign and remaining unknown to most, managed to come second in Holborn & St. Pancras. Leanne Mohamad, spotted by me in one sole *Guardian* article, lost to the next Health Secretary by fewer than 600 votes. The two winners are said to be bought-and-paid-for by the Israel, the private health and the pharmaceutical lobbies, boding nothing but ill for ordinary people from Palestine to Preston; from Bangladesh to Bournemouth. Also starved of the levels of oxygen lavishly gifted to Farrage were the likes of George Galloway, Craig Murray and countless other candidates eminently better-qualified than the eventual winners, with the result that minority communities around the country are going to find themselves once more in the kind of hostile environment more suited to racists and bigots than to the open-minded-and-hearted. Similar media manipulation has given our American siblings the kind of pitiful leadership choices they have today, with frightening consequences in years to come. They have history in this, and Paul Robeson was at the centre of one such episode back in 1948 when he campaigned for the Progressive presidential candidate Henry Wallace, who eventually managed to garner less than 5% of the vote. Robeson himself would be subjected to media hostility which would see him transformed from national treasure to public enemy #1 in a matter of months, leading to the infamous Peekskill Riots of August/September 1949. As one Joe Hill urged before his 1915 execution, we mustn’t mourn but organise. Organisation must also sometimes take the form of direct action to be effective, as demonstrated by many, from Ella Baker in her time to Palestine Action and Kenyan youth today. The struggle continues. All is not lost. Fear not, ORGANISE!

**Tayo Aluko. Writer, Performer.** Tayo was born in Nigeria, worked as an architect in Liverpool for many years. He has fronted orchestras as baritone soloist in concert halls, and has also performed lead roles in opera, musicals and oratorio. *CALL MR ROBESON* has won numerous awards at festivals in the UK and Canada, and continues to be in demand 16 years since its premiere. His second play, *JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER* is itself 8 years old, and has been performed on three continents. He delivers a number of lecture/concerts and talks on Black Political Resistance using art and song. He researched, wrote and narrated to camera a piece on West African History before the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which forms part of the permanent exhibit at Liverpool’s International Slavery Museum. His 15-minute play, *HALF MOON*, which also deals with ancient Africa, has been performed several times in the UK. He has developed a piece titled *WHAT HAPPENS?* featuring the writings of African American writer Langston Hughes, for performance with live jazz accompaniment. He has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Morning Star*, *NERVE Magazine*, *Modern Ghana*, *Searchlight Magazine*, *Counterfire* and *Counterpunch*. His audio play, *PAUL ROBESON’S LOVE SONG*, recorded during lockdown with actors from the USA and Canada, and now streaming online. His third one-man musical play, *COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN*, inspired by the life and music of the Black British Composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, premiered in Brighton in May. He is also working on a screenplay telling the story of Pastor Daniels Ekarte (d. 1964), known as the African Saint of Liverpool.

**Babatunde Şosan, Piano.** Babatunde is an accomplished and versatile pianist from Nigeria, with a BMus Hons degree in piano and organ performance from Trinity Laban Music Conservatory in Greenwich, and a Master’s degree with merit in Music Performance and Education from the University of Hull. He is based in Kent where he teaches and plays church organ. He plays comfortably in a wide range of styles: from classical, Jazz, Pop, Contemporary, to Latin, Disney and Film music.

Call Mr. Robeson was premiered at C-Soco at the Edinburgh Fringe on August 12, 2007, with Michael Conliffe accompanying Tayo Aluko then, and for several years thereafter.

Tayo Aluko & Friends  
and  
Ella Baker School of Organising  
Present

**Director and Dramaturge:** Olusola Oyeleye.  
**Set & Costume Designer:** Phil Newman.  
**Sound Design:** David Darlington & Liam McDermott.  
**Sound Engineering:** Derek Murray.  
**Lighting Design:** Gareth Starkey.  
**Recorded Percussion:** Oludele Olaseinde  
**Voices:** Shamus Maxwell, Paul O'Neill, Felix Pring, Kat Bishop, Suzanne Goldberg, Harry Arkwright.  
Some voices in the HUAC scene used from  
*Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?*  
by Eric Bentley, recorded by L A Theatre Works.  
**Male Voice Choir:** Liverpool Male Voice Choir

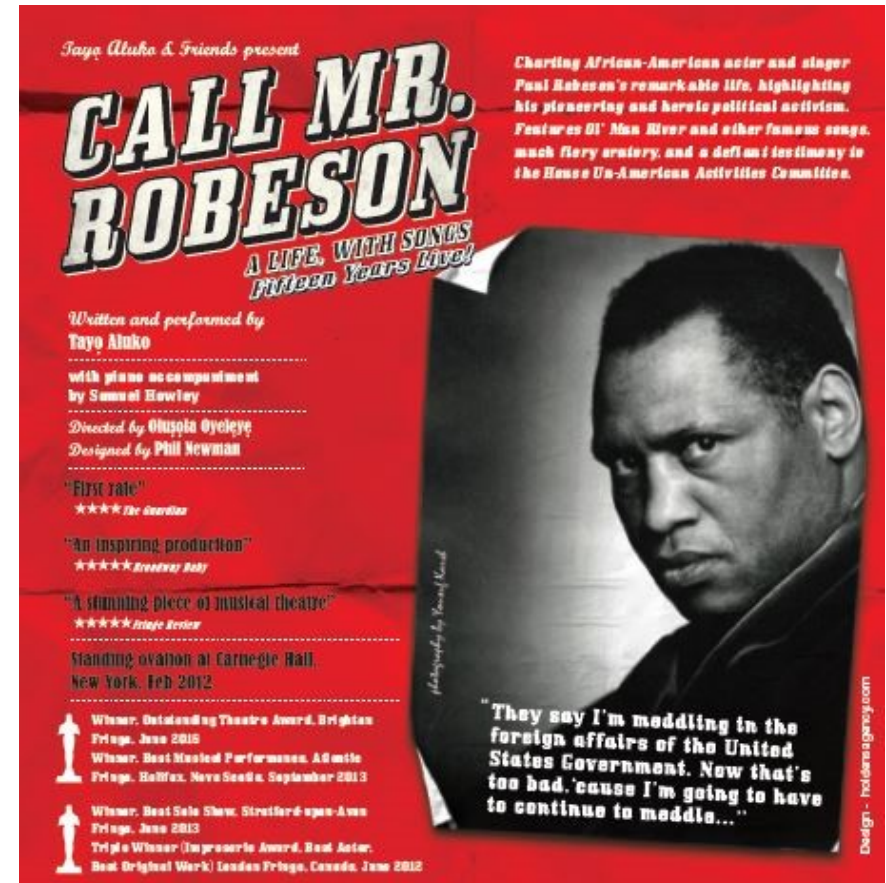
**Future Performances include:**

**5-24 August (not Sundays): Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown**  
CVenues @ Edinburgh Fringe  
**28 Aug: Call Mr. Robeson.** North American Festival of Wales,  
**Pittsburgh, PA, USA**  
**31 August: Call Mr. Robeson.** Atlanta Black Theatre Festival  
**GA, USA**  
**October 19. Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown**  
Wellingborough African Caribbean Association, Northamptonshire

**Tayo Aluko & Friends**  
**Liverpool L15 3LA**

info@tayoalukoandfriends.com  
www.tayoalukoandfriends.com

**facebook:** Tayo Aluko & Friends **Twitter:** @MrTayoAluko  
**instagram:** mrtayoaluko **tel:** +44 7990 608 074



Written and performed by Tayo Aluko  
Accompanied by  
Babatunde Şosan

**New Organising Conference**  
**Nottingham University**  
**Saturday, 6 July, 2024**