

# IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS UNIT OF STUDY

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## CHAPTER 4

*A Black Musician in the War*

### PART 1

*Who was James Reese Europe before the war?*

#### 1) A Musician

An excellent conductor  
Concert in Carnegie Hall, New York

#### 2) A Civil Rights activist

Definition of the Civil Rights Movement  
Involvement in trade unions

### PART 2

*A soldier in a segregated country*

#### 1) Dates and role in the conflict the Hellfighters

More than just black and white: Afro-Puerto Ricans join the Hellfighters Regiment  
How did James Reese Europe connect with Puerto Rican musicians  
History of regimental/military bands in Puerto Rico (and Latin America)  
Famous Puerto Rican musicians who were part of the regimental band

#### 2) How and where was music performed during the war?

Radio Interview of Jason Moran by a US veteran in February 2019

#### 3) Back home in the US

Belated rewards, thus the importance of memorial days in the US & role of the 369th Experience  
Puerto Ricans in the NYC music scene  
The legacy of the Puerto Rican musicians in jazz and popular music



## PART 3

A “new” music for a “ new” world

### 1) Evolution of jazz music

- ▶ Fox trot, syncopation, rag time ... ( definitions)
- ▶ New instruments : brass, wind, woodwind instruments
- ▶ Universal songs thanks to lyrics related to war, love, segregation

### 2) Black artists in Paris

“avant-garde” and prestigious concert halls like the Théâtre des Champs Elysées 15, avenue Montaigne Paris 8è with James Reese Europe and then Joséphine Baker

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## DOCUMENTS

*in English for EPI James Reese Europe*

### Article about Rafael Hernandez and Hellfighters;

“Rafael Hernández and the Puerto Rican Legacy of the 369th Regiment’s Harlem Hellfighters” by Elena Martínez. In VOICES: The Journal of New York Folklore, Spring-Summer 2014, volume 40:1-2

**Radio interview with Jason Moran** about JRE, BBC presentation of the Hellfighters, conference at the Kennedy Center December 2018

- ▶ <https://omny.fm/shows/vetstory/harlem-hellfighters-the-soldiers-who-started-jazz>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=de6vX1U6xHw>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6S723JjDBQ>