

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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Dayton VA Medical Center to host free James Reese Europe tribute concert

DAYTON, Ohio -- The Dayton VA Medical Center, in cooperation with Central State University, will host a free tribute concert to James Reese Europe at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Dayton VAMC theater.

The event is part of the celebration of Black History Month and the year-long celebration of the Dayton VAMC's 150th anniversary of providing world-class care for Veterans in the local area.

The concert is open to the public and will celebrate the music of James Reese Europe, an influential black musician and WWI Veteran. Europe influenced early jazz and rag-time music and championed black music and musicians as a major attraction in Europe and America. He was also influential in dance, inventing the turkey-trot and fox-trot.

Reese's career was cut short when one of his drummers stabbed him during practice before a Boston performance. He was 39 years old at the time of his death.

The concert will be performed by the CSU Robeson Winds.

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For more information about the event, contact Ted Froats at (937) 267-3919 or ted.froats@va.gov.

For more information about the CSU Fine and Performing Arts program, go to http://www.centralstate.edu/academics/CHAS/music_art/index1.php.

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