A MUSICAL MYSTERY

Who was the mysterious "L. Zeitlin" who composed the score for "Eli Zion"? Twenty years after composing "Eli Zion" for cello and piano, its composer, Leo Zeitlin, was dead. Eventually, his work came to be attributed to the wrong "L. Zeitlin." In this talk, during which we will hear a recording of the piece, Paula Eisenstein Baker recounts the detective work that led to her reattribution of the piece.

Paula Eisenstein Baker is adjunct instructor of violoncello and chamber music at the University of St. Thomas, Houston. During her career as a free-lance cellist, she found a copy of Eli Zion for cello and piano by Leo Zeitlin (1884–1930) in an archive in Tel Aviv. Since performing and reattributing the piece (it had been misattributed to another man with an almost identical name), she has conducted further research into the career and works of Zeitlin, a member of the early 20th century Society for Jewish Folk Music, founded in St. Petersburg in 1908. Between 1990 and 2000, she organized and performed in concerts of Zeitlin's chamber music to audiences in Houston and elsewhere in the United States, as well as in Toronto, St. Petersburg, London, and Vilnius.

Lunch reservations required by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23.
Please email jewishstudies@rice.edu with your name and “BAKER” in the subject line; specify any dietary restrictions in the email.