

# Record care objective: conquer dust, warping

There is an art to keeping records clean, and although most everyone would agree that they should be kept clean and stored properly, most of us probably don't do a very thorough job of it.

Polyvinyl chloride, the substance records are made of, is highly static prone. When a record is static-charged it will attract more dust in its grooves, and this, in turn, increases the wear and hissing noises on the record.

## diane warnek out of my head

The most common care methods used by record collectors are to avoid touching the grooves, keep the discs in covers and store them vertically, rather closely. Most people try to clean off the stylus with a

finger after a record has been played, and if they find some dust on their finger, they consider they have done a good job.

Not so. The reasons are three fold: 1) Only part of the dust on a record comes off on a needle, and most of the dust left on the disc gets packed in deeper. And it is true that most record cleaning gadgets and solutions not only do little or no good, they may be worse than using nothing. 2) A high compliance, low mass stylus is easily damaged, and 3) When you brush the stylus with your forefinger, you are probably leaving some body oil behind, which can make dust stick to the stylus.

The best way to counteract dust on your stylus, is to install an inexpensive needle cleaning brush. Elpa makes a good one, but others will do the job as well.

Static, dust, tobacco smoke and fingerprints are a record's biggest enemies. High humidity can combat static, the worst offender, but one can't always have that, so Cecil Watts, an Englishman, developed the Dust Bug and Record Preener, also marketed by Elpa. Both of these work well and are

recommended highly.

After Watts died, a microbiologist named Bruce Maier, developed an antistatic, antimicrobial fluid with a large brush applicator. The system is called the Discwasher and costs \$12.95, not a high price to pay when you consider how much you have invested in records.

Discs should always be kept in jackets when not in use. They should be stored vertically or horizontally fairly tightly to discourage warping. The only problem with horizontal storage is that after a

while, records can slip out of the neat stack and once they are left that way, it's only a matter of a few weeks before they become warped.

A few other pointers. Always use a diamond needle in good shape and a stylus brush after each playing. Keep your dustcover on, and clean it often with a damp cloth. Use a Discwasher, Dust Bug or Preener every time you play a record. I won't guarantee your records will be absolutely dust free, but they will sound better and last years longer.



## New breed pianist in concert Friday

By Dennis Ellermeier

Misha Dichter, said by *Newsweek* to be "the best of a new breed of pianists," will appear in concert in Kimball Recital Hall this Friday at 8 p.m.

The 28-year-old pianist has performed with many major orchestras in the U.S. and has made concert tours of Japan, Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

In addition, Dichter won a Silver Medal (second place) at the 1966 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He has toured the Soviet Union twice, by invitation of the Soviet Ministry of Culture.

Friday's concert will include two Beethoven sonatas, Debussy's "Suite Bergamasque" and "Symphonic Etudes" by Schumann. Dichter will also appear in an informal session at Sandoz Hall at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

This concert is the fourth in the Performing Arts Series, which was largely sold out. Some stage seating is still available.



Pianist Misha Dichter will appear in concert Friday night in Kimball Recital Hall.

## BOOK EXCHANGE

The Book Exchange  
is in its final week.

ALL BOOKS must be picked up  
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Hours are from 11:30 to 5:00 P.M.

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## Opera stars UNL professor

Mozart's masterpiece "The Marriage of Figaro" will be staged by the Omaha Opera Co. Thursday and Saturday in the Omaha Civic Auditorium Music Hall.

The opera is an adult comedy portraying the conflict of human emotions, according to Min Rimmerman, director of public relations for the Omaha Opera. She said the story involves a couple who wants to be married and a wife whose husband is "playing around." Political and historical overtones complicate the plot, she said.

The title role will be sung by Norman Treigle and the part of Countess Almaviva by Carol Neblett, of whom *Newsweek* magazine commented in a recent review, "Neblett sang beautifully with a deep velvet voice as voluptuous as her body."

Emily McKnight, assistant professor of voice at UNL, will be singing the role of Barbarina. McKnight, a graduate of the University of Southern California, has studied opera in Munich and Berlin.

Tickets from \$2-\$8.75 are available at the Brandeis Ticket Office in downtown Omaha or at the door.



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