

A GANAVAN composer, who taught piano and singing to over 200 pupils in Oban and the surrounding area, has decided to move back to his native Yorkshire. Geoffrey Heald-Smith, who was recovering from a stroke at Lynn of Lorne in Benderloch, has moved to another care home in Harrogate where he will be able to work with an orchestra and a singing group. Mr Heald-Smith said: 'It has been a happy experience living here and I am happy about the number of musicians I have produced.' Mr Heald-Smith referred to a handful of his more successful artists in pianist Andrew Dunlop, who now studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester; Maria Lopez whom Mr Heald-Smith said was one of the finest singers he has heard; singer Eileen Coull, who was one of his first pupils; and young singer Fiona Ramage whom Mr Heald-Smith was

## *Local composer returns to his roots*



*Geoffrey Heald-Smith performs at the  
Corran Halls, Oban. i35gef1p*

still teaching. He also paid tribute to his drummer Andrew Coulter. But some of Mr Heald-Smith's fondest memories were of the Maestro's Minstrels, a group of young children he taught. The group performed at the Corran Halls before Mr Heald-Smith suffered his stroke. Mr Heald-Smith said: 'I always liked teaching and working with youngsters and it was the same when I taught in places like Brazil and Norway. You get so much back because of their enthusiasm and they have no preconceived ideas.' The maestro admitted his teaching days were probably behind him now but said he was looking forward to his new home in Harrogate. 'I'm a Yorkshireman; I grew up in Hull and my daughter, Emma, is in Harrogate but a big pull is I get to see my grandchildren,' he said. 'I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who has supported me over the years.'