

Connel musician hits the right notes



Andrew Dunlop found time to play at a ceilidh in Taynuilt Village Hall. t30and01

A YOUNG Connel music student has been getting his name known around the world playing with concertos and choirs.

Andrew Dunlop began playing piano while at Achaleven Primary School and from Oban High School went on to win a place at one of Britain's most prestigious music schools.

Now, going into his fourth year at the Royal Northern College of Music, Andrew has already played across the world.

The student has come a long way since he

started his training with Geoffrey Heald-Smith of Ganavan.

Andrew has recently used his talent to compose a five-part harmony for Taynuilt Ladies Gaelic Choir to sing at this year's Mods.

Sister Joy, Gaelic Development Officer for Argyll and Bute, said: 'He's doing really well and has come a lot further than he thought he would.'

'A lot of people on his course just do the studying but he works with orchestras and provides accompaniment.'

'He also plays his clarsach at weddings and works with ceilidh bands in London. He is travelling everywhere.'

'I phoned him one time and he was getting on a plane to play in America.'

This trip to the US was a gathering of the world's best young pianists for which Andrew had to audition. During the visit he received expert tuition but was the only pupil there who spoke English.

More recently Andrew has been working with the national youth choir and orchestra.

'That has ruined my mum's plans, because she had him down to play at all the Taynuilt ceilidhs,' said Joy.

Andrew found time in his hectic schedule to visit his family in Connel for a few days.

During the visit he gave his first Argyll performance for months - at a ceilidh in Taynuilt.