

Tributes are paid to acclaimed musician

By **DAVID JEFFELS**

ALAN Ray Hacker, a highly-acclaimed musician, has died at the age of 73.

Mr Hacker, who lived in Broughton, near Malton, was recognised as one of the most talented clarinetists of his time with an international reputation as a performer and champion of new music.

At 19 he was a clarinet professor at the Royal Academy of Music where, while still in the third year of his studies, he joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

When he was just 26 he suffered a thrombosis on his spinal column which confined him to a wheelchair but it failed to deter his enthusiasm and determination to continue his career.

Mr Hacker later became a conductor, teacher and a pioneer of the study of early music and restora-

tion of classical instruments. In 1972 he founded the Music Party, an organisation set up for the authentic performance of classical music.

He was born in Surrey and after being educated at Dulwich College where he gained a scholarship in music, went to the Royal Academy of Music when he won the Dove Prize and the Boise Travelling Scholarship, studying in Paris, Bayreuth and Vienna and in 1960 became a professor of the academy.

His distinguished career, which earned him an OBE for services to music, saw him playing in the English National Orchestra and at the Aldeburgh Festival as well as

being a virtual soloist in the background music to the famous World at War television series.

In 1976 he was appointed lecturer in music at York University and senior lecturer between 1984 and 1987.

Mr Hacker's wife said they had lived in Broughton for the past 17 years. She said that students from all parts of the world had stayed with them to study with her husband. One of their joint key interests was Artlink, an organisation of which Alan was patron. "People with learning difficulties are able to participate in the arts," she said.

As well as Margaret, his wife, Mr Hacker also leaves two daughters from his first marriage and a step daughter.

His funeral is to be held at the East Riding Crematorium at Octon on Friday, May 4, at 2pm.



TALENT: Ray Hacker, who earned an international reputation