

- L&T staff report

A program full of Christmas favorites will be Southwest Symphony Society's gift to the community when the string and orchestra group performs Dec. 15, a Sunday. The annual Christmas concert is set for 2 p.m. at the Showcase Theater at Seward County Community College. As always, the program is free, with donations for support of the nonprofit community group accepted.



Director Mark Compaan has selected an array of classic holiday music, beginning with a suite of carols performed by the string orchestra. "Blue Christmas," with drum set and piano.

Compaan said in an earlier interview with the Leader & Times that his goal as incoming director is to increase the group's numbers, as well as its visibility in the community.

Halfway through the year, the symphony's numbers are slightly up.

Sunday's performance reflects the growth, as a string quartet will add a piece to the program. "Christmas Fantasia for Strings" features violinists Bethany Adams and Chris Seeman, Nancy Allen on viola and Laura Hopkins on cello.

The full orchestra, including musicians from the community and Liberal High School, will round out the concert with favorites like "It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year," "Winter Wonderland," "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" and "O Holy Night."

Following the concert, members of the symphony society board will serve refreshments.