

By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

The walls of Maskus Auditorium will be filled with singing voices Tuesday night.

The Liberal High School choir department will host its pre-contest concert at 7:30 p.m. and vocal director Tony Claus says the vocal department is excited.

“Like many concerts, the student mood is always excited,” he said. “Sometimes it’s because they can’t wait to perform, and sometimes it’s because they wish they had a little more time.”

Claus says that some of the numbers have been in preparation since last fall while some of them have been in preparation in a shorter time.

“The songs were selected on what challenges they offer the classes,” said Claus. “Sometimes it’s foreign languages, on other occasions, it’s the harmonies; whatever seems to be accessible and challenging to the students. My expectations are for all the students develop as musicians, performers and as confident young people.”

Some of the chorus song selections will include: “Fare Ye Weel”; “My Heart’s in the Highlands”; “This Old Hammer”; Mon couer se recomande a vous (“My Heart is Offered to You”); “My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose”; Kawouno Wan Gi Pi (Kenyan “Water Song” in the Dholuo language). Claus said that there will also be additional vocal solos throughout the evening.

With the concert so near, Claus gave his perspective on the rehearsal process thus far.

“My favorite part is when we get to the point in rehearsals where we are dealing with musical concepts that are beyond the notes on the page like ‘Was that last phrase really in the style of this piece?’ and ‘what are the lyricist and composer trying to communicate?’”he said.