



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“I Heard the Bells”

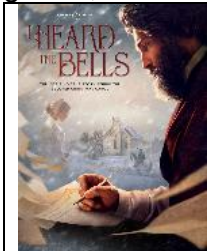
I recently saw in the theaters, the movie [“I Heard the Bells”](#). “The move tells the inspiring true story behind the beloved [Christmas carol](#) and its author, [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#). Known as America’s Poet, Henry leads an idyllic life – until the day his world is shattered by tragedy. With a nation divided by Civil War and his family torn apart, Henry puts down his pen, silenced by grief. But it’s the sound of Christmas morning that reignites the poet’s lost voice as he discovers the resounding hope of rekindled faith”¹

“Sight & Sound, headquartered in Strasburg PA, is known for its epic stage productions of biblical stories through the private, for-profit Sight & Sound Theatres. The company embarked on its first movie as an experiment, a \$3 million attempt to learn about filmmaking and the film business. Filming began in 2021. Some notable locations include Strasburg Rail Road (and downtown Strasburg), the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Moonstone Manor in Elizabethtown, Trinity Evangelical Church in Manheim, and Mount Hope Winery, north of Manheim.”²

December 1, 2022, was quite a debut evening for “I Heard the Bells.” It brought an estimated \$767,000, good enough for second place overall. After just two weeks, it grossed \$4.6 million showing in 1,700 theaters, which placed it in the top six grossed of all movies in theaters, for that time. According to [The Numbers](#) website, they had already made a 22% profit. Not bad for a company that never made a movie before, was low budget and used local places and actors.

“[Sight & Sound](#) is a ministry on a mission to create spectacular entertainment experiences for the whole family. Since its beginning as a traveling multimedia show in 1976, Sight & Sound has inspired over 25 million people with stories of faith. Today, Sight & Sound owns and operates two live theater locations, immersing audiences in state-of-the-art original productions. [Sight & Sound TV](#) launched in 2020, and this online streaming platform has since welcomed a global virtual audience from over 175 countries around the world.”³ There is also an [online store](#) where their DVDs and other items can be purchased.

I was inspired by the movie for many reasons. The acting was excellent. The camera work was professional. The story was moving. It was filmed in the neighboring county with places I have visited. I have been to Sight and Sound several times and even applied there to work. My major in college was TV and film making. I am considered an historian and a writer. But greatest of all it presented a Christian message in a non-offensive way. “Describing itself as a ministry meant to “present the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sow the Word of God into the lives of our customers, guests, and fellow workers,” this Pennsylvania-based outfit is clear in its mission.”⁴



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Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13,14
Listen to [“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”](#)
Watch the trailer [“I Heard the Bells”](#)



[Watch another Sight & Sound trailer.](#)

¹[fandango.com/i-heard-the-bells-228807/movie-overview](#)

²[lancasteronline.com/business/local_business/sight-sounds-i-heard-the-bells-takes-in-2-77-million-at-the-box-office](#)

³[www.iheardthebellsmovie.com/about-sight-and-sound/](#)

⁴[www.christianfilmblog.com/post/sight-sound-theaters-jumps-into-the-movie-business](#)

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