

1860

The Old Town Hall & Civic Theatre is built.

1850

Friday 1 March
The Floral Hall is opened. After the new Corn Exchange is built, the Floral Hall is knocked down in 1904.

1874

15 April
The new Corn Exchange opens.

16 April

The Bedford Amateur Music Society (later renamed Bedford Choral Society) perform two opening concerts.

1926

The first refurbishment of the Corn Exchange takes place.

1952

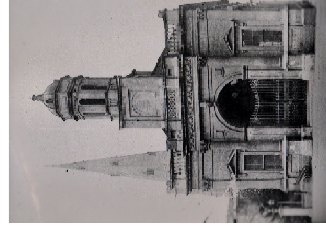
Town Hall becomes the Civic Theatre.

1995

13 March
First Philharmonia Orchestra concert.
1 October
Corn Exchange re-opens after its second refurbishment at a cost of £1.5 million.

1849

Original Corn Exchange is built. Later known as the Floral Hall.



1872

21 October
Foundation stone of the new Corn Exchange is laid by the Right Hon Earl Cowper, KG, Lord Lieutenant of the county, assisted by the Duke of Bedford.

1937

24 May
The Harpur Suite opens as Bedford Public Library.

1944

9 July
First concert by Glen Miller in the Lombardo Hall (now the Main Auditorium) at Bedford Corn Exchange.

19 July

Sir Henry Wood conducts his last Proms concert at Bedford Corn Exchange.



1900

The Musical Society installs an organ in the Corn Exchange.

1968

£15,000 is made available for Civic Theatre modernisation.

2009

Today the Bedford Corn Exchange consists of several areas. Modern facilities are combined with history and grandeur, to accommodate guests for banqueting, conference and performance events.



1941

17 September
The first concert is given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the Corn Exchange.