

Timeline History of Mechanics Hall & Hook Organ

timeline

Mechanics Hall Building • Events • Hook

Worcester County Mechanics Association established
First Mechanics Fair

Mechanics Hall Dedicated
First Worcester Music Festival
Thoreau lecture: "A Plea for Captain Brown"

Hook Organ Installed Op. 334
Charles Dickens speaks at MH
First African American Member Admitted to Mechanics

Hook Brothers retire

Dudley Buck soloist at the Worc. Music Festival

Geroge Hutchings lowers pitch to A-435

Hook Organ (& facilities) "electrified"

Roller Skating in the Great Hall
Mechanics Hall for sale; buyer reneges
Women Members admitted in Mechanics Association

Fire Department Forces Shutdown
Mech Hall on National Register of Historic Places
Hook Organ Restoration Committee formed
Mech Hall re-dedicated; Phase I restoration completed
Boyden Salon addition
Hook Organ restoration celebration Sept 25-26
Brown Bag Concert Series began
Fuller International Organ Festival
125th Organ Celebration Concert; Fuller Wing
Washburn Hall restored
Women's portraits added to Great Hall
Promenade refurbished
Building Exterior Façade restored
Worcester Organ Concert Series Begins
Hook Organ cleaned/refurbished
Second blower added to wind system
Hook 150th Anniversary - Year of the Organ
Main Street facade facelift/lighting
Renovated Main St Lobby, 1st Floor Promenade,
"Wall of Fame," Grand Staircase Portrait Gallery, & Washburn Lobby
Portraits of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and
William and Martha (Tulip) Brown Installed

Historical Events Worcester • US & World

1722 Worcester Incorporated
1750-1830 CLASSICAL MUSIC PERIOD
1830-1860 EARLY ROMANTIC MUSIC PERIOD
1842
1843 College of the Holy Cross established
1848 Worcester becomes a city; **Free Soil anti-slavery party founded**
1850 First National Woman's Rights Convention held in Worcester
1855 Steam calliope invented by Joshua C Stoddard
1855 Eli Thayer founds Oread Institute, first four-year college for women
1857
1858
1859
1860-1920 LATE ROMANTIC MUSIC PERIOD
1861 **American Civil War**
1864 Worcester YMCA founded
1865 WPI founded
1868 Worcester population: 118,000
1868
1869 **1st trans-continental railroad completed**
1871
1880 Candlepin bowling invented in Worcester
1887 Clark University founded
1895
1898 **Spanish-American War**
1899 American Guild of Organists founded
1901 Assembly-line manufacturing concept introduced
1904 Assumption College founded
1908 **First Model T Ford produced**
1909 Sigmund Freud lectures at Clark
1910
1914 **WWI**
1920 **Women's right to vote - 19th Amendment**
1926 Robert Goddard liquid fuel rocket first successful launch
1938 NE Hurricane (Sept) unpredicted Category 5 - 700 killed
1941 **WWII**
1947 Worcester Orchestra & Worcester Youth Orchestra founded
1949 Worcester Chapter AGO founded
1950 **Korean War**
1952
1953 **F4 Tornado (June) - 94 killed**
1955 **Vietnam War (1964)**
1963 **Organ Historical Society founded; Harvey Ball: Smiley Face**
1972
1973
1975
1977
1978
1982
1983
1985
1989
1991
1999 Worcester Cold Storage fire kills 6 firemen
2000
2002
2009
2013
2014
2014
2017
2020 Worcester Population 206,000
2024

Slovenia Bone Flute (40,000 BCE)

Pipes of Pan ... Hydraulic
Chinese
Reed Organ (Cheng)
Organs used in
Roman Coleseum Games

0 A.D.

Churches boycotted
usage of organs due to
Roman games usage to
persecute Christians

1000

Concept of
"Stops"

1500

Early
Keyboard
& Pedals

Violin
Bach
Beethoven
"Familiar" pipe
organ sound

Virgil Fox
Biggs
Beatles

Hook Opus 334

1864

2000