



Thomas Tallis

Composer of the Week

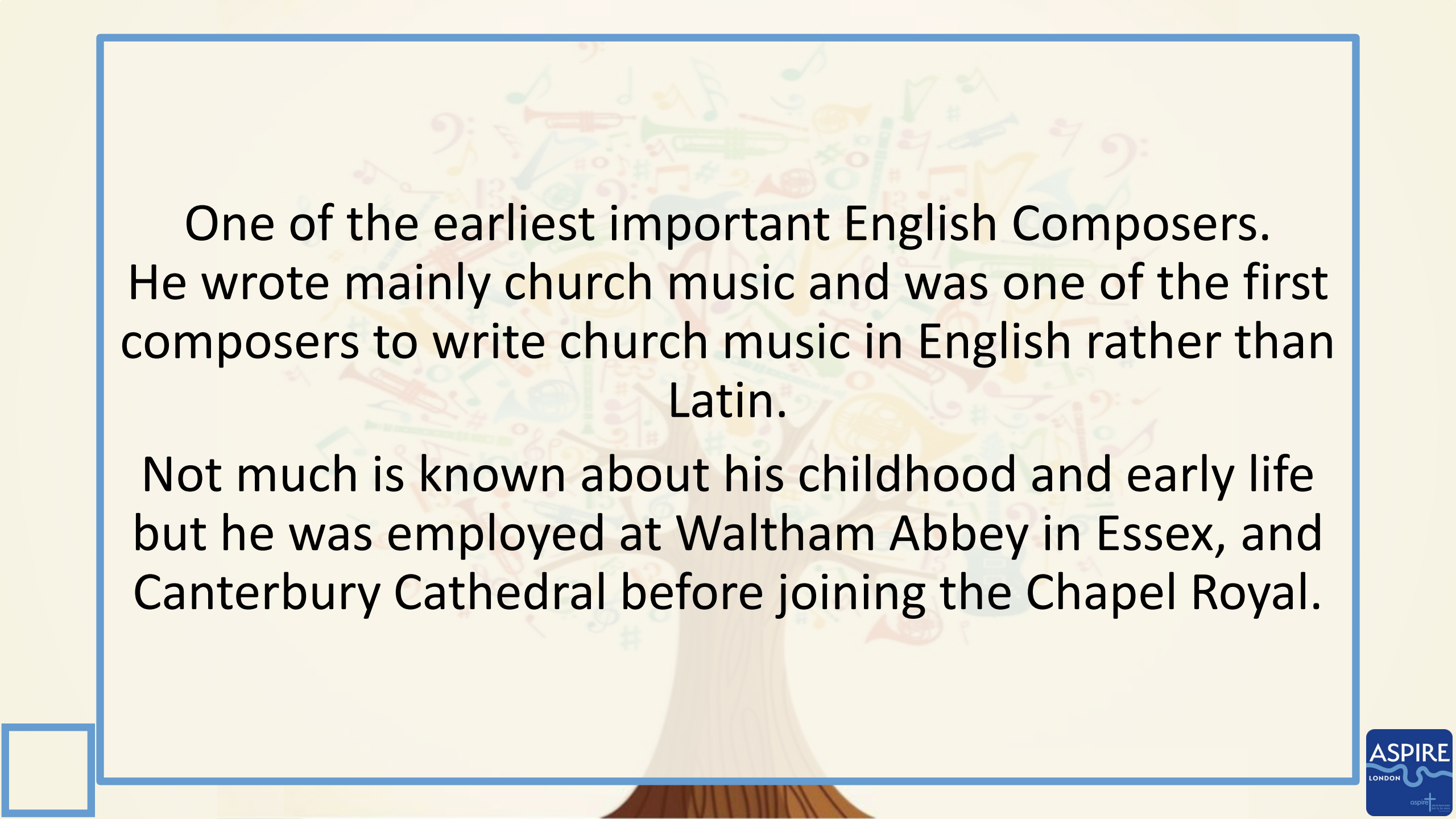




Born in Kent on 30th January
1505

Died in Greenwich, London on
23rd November 1585

How old was he,
when he died?

The background features a large, stylized tree with a brown trunk and a canopy of green and yellow leaves. Scattered throughout the scene are various musical notes, clefs, and instruments like trumpets and saxophones in soft, pastel colors. The entire scene is set against a light cream background.

One of the earliest important English Composers.
He wrote mainly church music and was one of the first
composers to write church music in English rather than
Latin.

Not much is known about his childhood and early life
but he was employed at Waltham Abbey in Essex, and
Canterbury Cathedral before joining the Chapel Royal.

The Chapel Royal consists of a group of priests and singers who served the King or Queen, travelling around the country with them and staying in the royal palaces.

He served all the Tudor monarchs:



Henry VII



Henry VIII



Edward VI



Lady Jane Grey

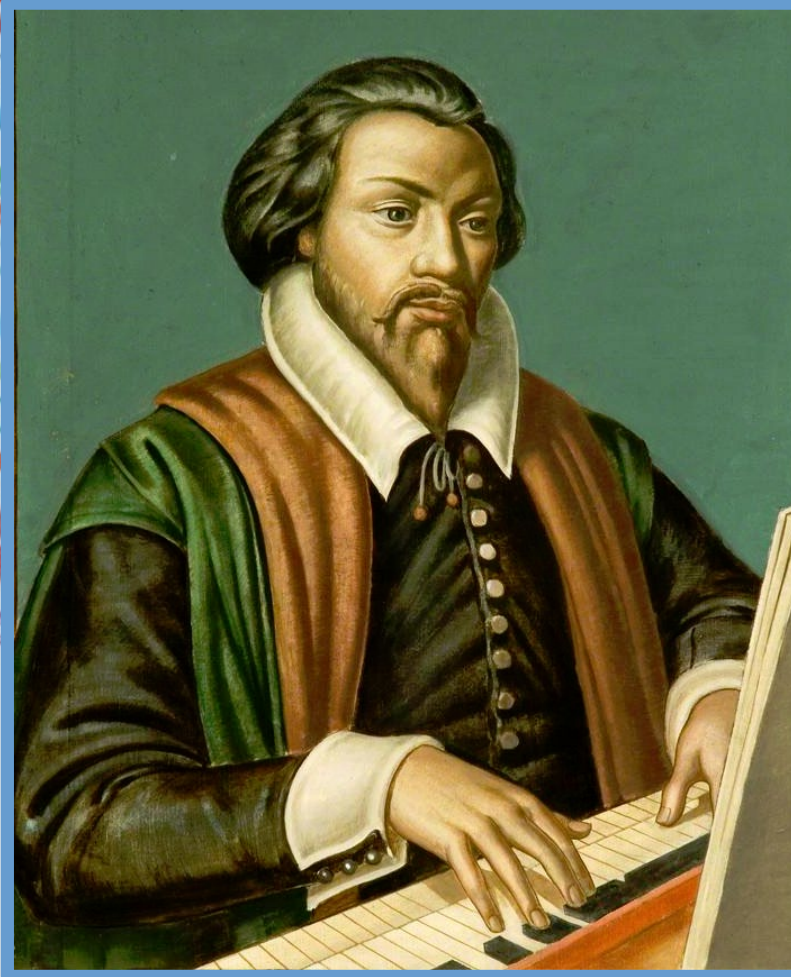


Mary I



Elizabeth I

He taught William Byrd, another important composer of the time.



We sing some in school, can you think of any?

He was a Roman Catholic, he managed to keep his head, throughout the turbulent Tudor times. He wrote Mass settings in English for the first time during the reign of the protestant Tudors and returned to more complicated Latin settings for Mary I.

We still sing one of his hymns in churches today.
It's called the Tallis Canon.

A canon is when everyone sings the same tune but one part starts after the first, sometimes three or four parts enter.



Elizabeth I granted Thomas Tallis and William Byrd a patent to print and publish their music on the newly invented printers.

They were the only composers allowed to do this and also the only people allowed to use the paper needed to print music.



One of his most well-known works is called Spem in
Alium – In No Other Is My Hope

It is thought that it was written for the birthday of
Elizabeth I.

It is written for eight five-voice choirs.

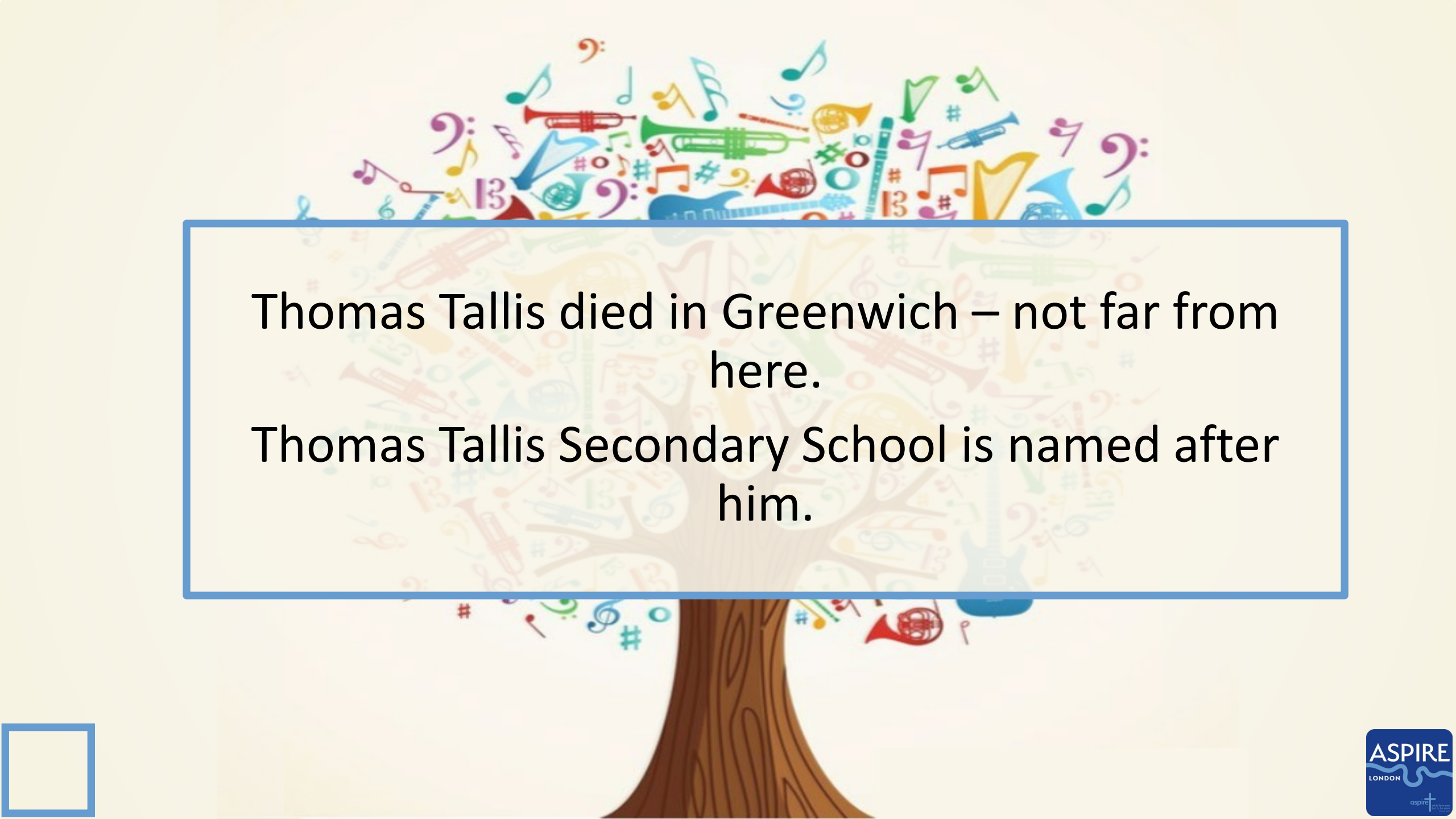
How many different parts?

8 choirs X 5 parts = 40 parts



Did you know?

Tallis wrote Spem in Alium in his 70th year - a ripe old age for someone in the sixteenth century!



Thomas Tallis died in Greenwich – not far from here.
Thomas Tallis Secondary School is named after him.