



Thomas Tallis

Composer of the Week



Thomas Tallis



How old was he?



Died in **Greenwich,**
London on **23rd**
November, 1585

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

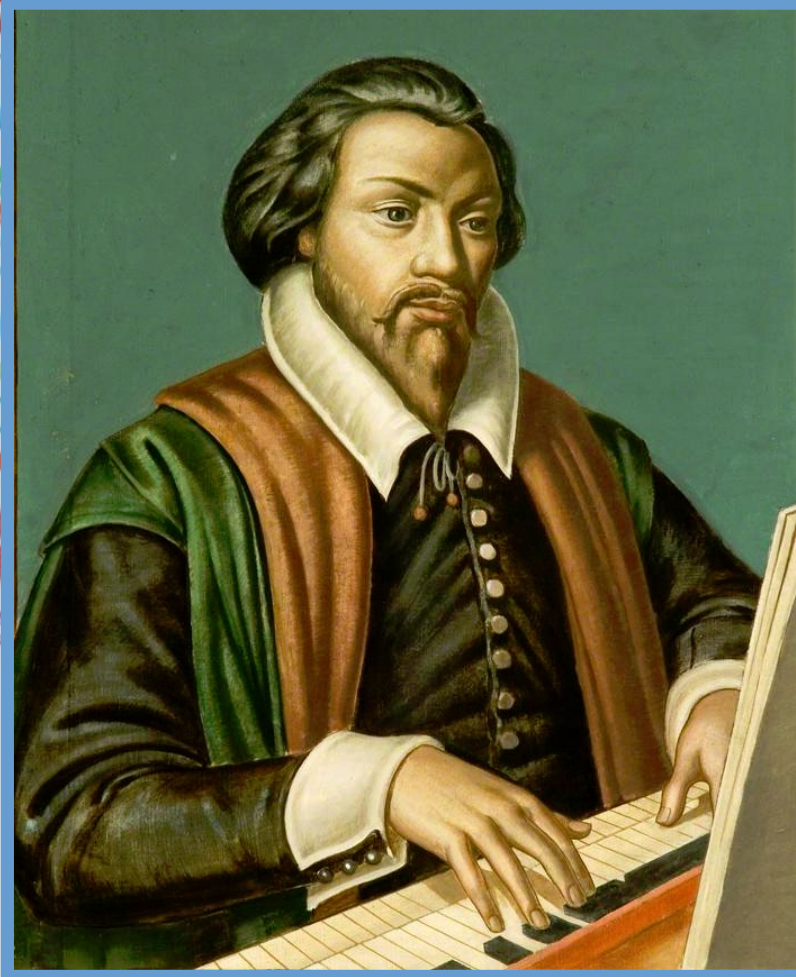


Mary I



Elizabeth I

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



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

gh he was a **Roman Catholic**, he
ged to keep his job, and his head,
t the turbulent Tudor times. He wrote
ings in English for the first time during
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.**

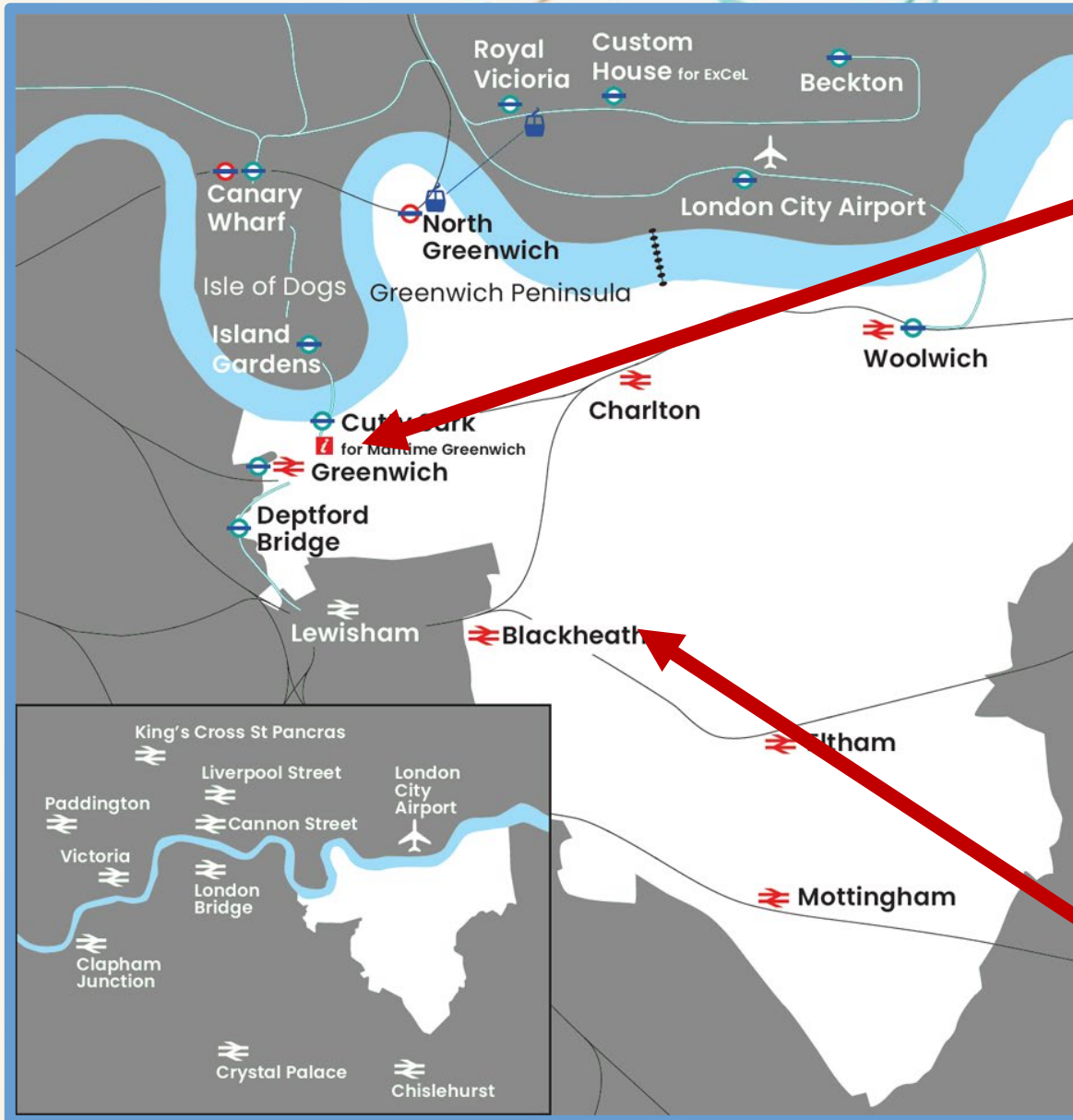
How many different parts?

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**
and is buried in **St
Alfrege Church**

**Thomas Tallis
Secondary
School** is named
after him.