

one. They married soon after and continued to tour together until the time came to set up a permanent home back in St Petersburg. Pavlov then decided only to accept engagements in nearby towns so he was closer to home.

The day came when their union was blessed with a son, called Alexander, although everyone knew him as Schura. He was a lively boy who got into all sorts of scrapes. Once on a school outing into the woods, a boar came too close and Schura climbed on his back. For a good while, the beast galloped back and forth with the boy yodelling on his back until he was thrown off. When Schura started attending school, his father insisted he learnt a musical instrument. Schura chose the violoncello and soon showed great aptitude for the instrument.

Now his son was settled, Pavlov felt in a position to spend more time on his own interests and ambitions. He was a philanthropist and an idealist, he was equally interested in philosophy and the arts of all kinds. He composed several choral works and an opera for children, for which he also wrote the Russian libretto.

Seven years after Schura was born, a girl arrived. Her name was Lisa and her arrival was equally joyfully received in the family. Like her brother before her, not long after reaching school age she too had to learn a musical instrument, and as she had shown such aptitude for it, she chose the piano. Pavlov loved his family and loved spoiling them, without however detracting from their education.