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## Amabile's glad to be back at G Rock

By MAUREEN  
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The only thing more nerve-rattling than trying to get through the holidays with three children — the pictures with Santa, baking Christmas cookies, hunting down a tree, not to mention elusive toys — is hosting a weekly radio program at the same time. WHTG-FM G Rock's Michele Amabile does it all.

The Manalapan High School grad, who lives in Yardville, hosts the "Saturday Morning Breakfast Club" on 106.3 and 106.5, from 6 to 10 a.m. while husband Rob Angermiller ("God bless Rob," says Amabile) maintains the home zone. But when the kids are 5, Amanda, 3, Joseph and 1, Alyssa, things can get a little confused. Amanda understands that mom is on the radio, says Amabile, but will still ask, "Did you hear me when I said hi to you, mommy?"

"She can hear me: She thinks I can hear her," says Amabile. "I think that's so cute."

Mom wakes at the 4:30 a.m. and leaves for her 6 a.m. show while Alyssa and the rest of family are still asleep. "My husband really helps a lot," she says.

During the week, Amabile, who is the cousin of popular retired Neptune High School teacher and coach John Amabile, may fill in for other DJs and writes community news for the Trenton Times. In between, the 40-year-old mom picks up the kids from the bus stop and gets them to Daisy Scout meetings, dance lessons, the playground, etc. "Real rock 'n' roll venues," quips Amabile.

"I think the last music show I went to was Playhouse Disney."

## In good company

But Amabile has another advantage: a long history in radio that she can draw from for her alternative new wave '80s format. Matt Pinfield, of MTV fame, mentored her. She describes Pinfield as, "a fantastic boss and ingenious programmer. Sitting with Matt was like a college symposium on music. He'd know every member of a band, their solo projects, who's still alive, who isn't — Matt was a Wikipedia of music before there was a Wikipedia."

While studying at Rider University, Amabile worked at the school's station, WRRG (107.7 FM), and had internships at WHWH-AM and WOBN-AM and FM. Although she's worked for WYSP-FM in Philadelphia, NJN Radio when it had a jazz station, WPST-FM in Princeton, and WJSE-FM in Linwood, near Atlantic City, except for a break to start her family, WHTG-FM has been her home since Mike Butscher hired her in 1993.

Last year marked Amabile's first return to radio since 2004. Terrie Carr, program director for G Rock's owner, Press Communications, hired Amabile, despite her becoming pregnant with Alyssa before the job offer came through.

"She's one of the best bosses," says Amabile. "It's just so wonderful to work for somebody who really gets it, that understands the product, the music, the DJs and how we think and how we are."

## Child of the '80s

And doing a show about the '80s is a joy more so than a job for Amabile, because she gets to play the '80s music that she loves: the Smiths, the Psychedelic Furs, Black Flag and the Replacements. Having grown up in the '80s, "I know the music, the lifestyle, the benchmarks of the '80s," she says. "I love bringing things up that jog people's memories. And people text me things."

The station allows Amabile to play some audience requests. "We play tribute to the alternative heritage," she says. "People who used to call me in the '90s still call me at the station today. Some ask about the old jocks."

"A lot of the listeners are my age, they're listening while they're driving their kids to karate, soccer games — or they're just dancing around the kitchen with them."

The mix of people at the station, all alternative rock fans, also makes for a smooth work scene. Scott Lowe, who hosts the "Radio Kaos All Request Party" on Saturday nights, will pull from his own vinyl collection if Amabile needs something rare, she says. Carr does an '80s and '90s "Mixed Retro Request Hour" daily at noon. And, Matt Knight (Matt at Night 7-10 p.m.) plays the "5 O'Clock Shuffle," drawn from e-mailed requests.

But Amabile tells us that "Matt (Murray) and Erin (Vogt) in the Morning" (5:30-10 a.m.), Erin's Acoustic show, "Common Threads" from 7-10 a.m. Sunday's, Terrie's all-female "Queens of Noise" show at 9 p.m. Sundays and "The Punkyard" with Pete Lepore at 10 p.m. Sundays are not to be missed either.

As the lady says, "There's a lot going on on G Rock Radio."

Asbury Park Press radio correspondent Maureen Nevin Duffy created and hosted "Asbury Radio — the Radio Voice of Asbury Park," a weekly public affairs talk show over WYGG, 88.1FM. It continues as a blog on [AsburyRadio.com](http://AsburyRadio.com). Please send your comments and suggestions regarding Radio Somewhere to [AsburyRadio@aol.com](mailto:AsburyRadio@aol.com) or 3 Deal Lake Court, Asbury Park, NJ, 07712.

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