

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Getting to the root of rock and roll

By DENNY DYROFF

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Michelle Malone has been making albums for over 20 years – playing guitar, writing songs and singing on all of them. The albums have featured a variety of styles and flavors over the years but there has always been one constant – Michelle Malone rocks.

“I actually started with folk rock,” said Malone, during a phone interview from her home in Alabama. “Then, I did Southern rock, indie rock, alternative rock – whatever my record labels wanted. But, I got away from all that. My album ‘Homegrown’, which was released in 1999, was acoustic. That slowly evolved into rock and blues rock. I started playing slide guitar in 2003.”

Malone is on tour to support her new album “Debris”. She and her band will visit Philadelphia Tuesday night for a show at the Tin Angel.

“I recorded the album a year ago with producer Nick Di Dia,” said Malone, “We did it at Lee King Studios in Atlanta Most of the tracks were done live – according to the song. Nick and I both believe a song should dictate how I should be recorded. The whole recording process was very organic. He did a great job of capturing what I am and what I do.”

Malone tapped into her newly-adopted home state’s pool of musical talent to put together her current band. “I’ve lived in Alabama for a year now,” said Malone. “This area resonates with me musically – and in a lot of other ways. I really feel comfortable here. I’ve had my new band for just a few months so we’re working hard to get up to speed.

“Three of the guys in my band are from Alabama. It’s a four-piece rock band – two guitars, bass and drums – with three vocalists. It’s just a good, classic four-piece rock band – the way God intended.

“My mom sang at a club and her husband was a drummer. We have a long line of musicians in the family. I stole my brother’s guitar when I was 11. The strings were rusted but it gave me a start. Eventually, my mom got me a decent acoustic guitar.”