All plugged in and ready to Trock

'Dr. Who'-obsessed songwriter Allegra Rosenberg is a 21st-century teen — a living, breathing example of the new way we will discover talent

BY CHRISTOPHER BORBELLI
Tribune reporter

Kids these days.
What with their ukuleles and their homespun ballads about the sci-fi series "Dr. Who," and their addictive EPs and ability to get famous authors to pay attention to their ukulele music about minor plot twists on "Dr. Who," I mean, am I right or am I right? Or maybe that's just Allegra Rosenberg?

In all the usual ways, she seems familiar.
She's 16, full of beans, lives in Skokie in a middle-class block. The doorbell on her house is shaped like a frog. She has a thoughtful mom and dad who regard her with a mix of exhausted wariness and pride. She has braces, dark, raccoon eyes and giant red hair that doesn't cascade so much as transform. Meeting her, you are not shocked to learn that Allegra, a sophomore at Niles North High School, takes honors classes. Or that she's in art club, design club, school plays. She comes off alarmingly precocious. She's culturally omniscient, online more than she is offline. She is a 21st-century teenager.

And yet, let me just say it: I have seen the future of Trock Rock, and its name is Allegra Rosenberg.

Trock is short for "Time Lord Rock," a sub-sub-subgenre of pop that celebrates "Dr. Who." Chameleonic Circuit? The Radiohead of Trock. Allegra is more of an indie upstart, "though (she's) one of the people who always comes up when you talk about 'Trock," says Perry Michael Simon, who edits The Nerdist, comedian Chris Hardwick's popular, geek-centric website. "She has a kind of Billy Bragg vibe — no accompaniment, just her and a ukulele. She's a great example of unfiltered creativity kids put out because they have these digital tools. Though if I were that age, I'm not sure I'd have picked up a ukulele and played songs about 'Dr. Who.'"

Not a "Dr. Who" devotee? Then you missed the big "Dr. Who" convention in

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Allages' songs are a mix of original compositions and traditional tunes. Her music ranges from soulful ballads to upbeat, feel-good songs. Allages' unique style and passion for music have earned her a dedicated following, and she continues to inspire others with her musical talents.

Teen making ukulele gold

Allages performs her version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on the ukulele.

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Allages' music has touched many lives, and she continues to spread her message of love and positivity through her music. She encourages others to follow their dreams and pursue their passions, no matter how big or small. Allages' music is a testament to the power of music to bring people together and inspire change.