

Bio information: **FAR CORNER**  
Title: **RISK** (Cuneiform Rune 449)  
Format: CD / DIGITAL  
www.cuneiformrecords.com

FILE UNDER: **ROCK / PROGRESSIVE ROCK**

*“... three of the four members [of Far Corner] (keyboardist and chief composer **Dan Maske**, cellist **Angela Schmidt** and percussionist **Craig Walkner**) have music degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and have clearly logged in some serious practice, rehearsal and performance time. The fourth member, bassist **William Kopecky**, has more than paid his dues in numerous prog rock bands and he displays impressive facility on his instrument. (He can also rock really hard, and provides a useful ground for the more ethereal tendencies of his academic colleagues.)” – **Bill Tilland / AllMusic***

*“Far Corner plays insanely complex instrumental chamber rock (modern classical meets prog rock) and I can easily say that **Risk** was the most challenging record I’ve ever played on.” – **William Kopecky***

**Far Corner**, a 21<sup>st</sup> century American chamber rock ensemble based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, play exquisitely composed, classically-inspired instrumental music that “bridges the post-classical and the prog worlds” with a muscular and aggressive rock-based stance. Composed in a contemporary classical style by composer and keyboardist **Dan Maske**, its music combines influences from 20<sup>th</sup> century composers such as **Stravinsky**, **Ives** and **Bartok** with 1970’s progressive rock bands such as **ELP**, **King Crimson**, **Univers Zero**, **Present** and more. The group also includes some improvisation in its work, both within and outside of Maske’s compositions. Performed by highly skilled, trained and experienced musicians who subvert their egos to let the compositions be the stars, and played with the energy and power of rock, Far Corner’s music is stunningly original, refreshingly accessible and highly entertaining.

**Far Corner** formed in the Spring of 2003 as a quartet featuring keyboardist **Dan Maske**, cellist **Angela Schmidt**, percussionist **Craig Walkner**, and bassist **William Kopecky**. A year later, in 2004, **Cuneiform** released the band’s self-titled debut recording, *Far Corner*, to critical acclaim throughout the international world of progressive rock. In its first CD, Far Corner used a relatively small palette of instrumental colors and achieved a big sound: piano and organ, cello (played both “Classically” and amplified), electric bass and drums.

In 2007, the group released their second album, *Endangered*, which added more improvisation to the group’s mix, while also keeping the flag flying for thorough composed works as well. It too was very well received.

After *Endangered*, Far Corner continued to perform live, preparing and presenting new music and planning for a third album. But before much could be accomplished, Craig and William were presented with exciting career opportunities which required Craig to move out of state and William to move out of country. Rather than make Far Corner – always a ‘real, live band’ – into a ‘file-sharing project’, it was decided that Dan would continue to compose for the group and to send all members the scores for their feedback and for them to rehearse to, but that the recording would wait for the opportunity for all four musicians to be in the same room together, playing live as an ensemble in the studio. Hence the long delay between release number two and three.

Despite the delay and the geographic difficulties, *Risk* is the group’s most ambitiously composed work so far and rigorous composition is one of the main modus operandi of the group!