Renowned jazz recording artist Carmen Lundy was named University of Miami School of Music Distinguished Alumna for 2003. The award was presented during Lundy’s appearance with the UM Concert Jazz Band on January 25 at UM’s Maurice Gusman Concert Hall on the Coral Gables campus.

Blues and Soul Magazine called Lundy “one the world’s greatest jazz vocalists.” A native of Miami, her path to becoming one of today’s most talented, respected, and sophisticated jazz singers began at age six, with her first piano lesson. As a teenager, she made her first recording, The Price of Silence. As a student at the University of Miami, she studied opera but soon discovered her love for jazz. She eventually graduated with a degree in studio music and jazz. After performing locally, she went to New York and immediately began working and receiving critical acclaim.

Lundy has recorded six albums and has performed and recorded as a soloist with a variety of symphony orchestras around the world. She has also performed and recorded with such musicians as Walter Bishop, Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Ray Berreto, Ernie Watts, Billy Childs, and others. The students, faculty, and staff of the School of Music are proud to have Carmen Lundy as the Distinguished Alumna for 2003.

The Bergonzi String Quartet premiered an arrangement of Camille Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals for Slightly Augmented String Quartet, arranged by Pamela McConnell. It is “slightly augmented” because each member of the quartet is asked to play an instrument other than the traditional quartet instrument. First violinist Glenn Basham also performs on the harmonica and the musical saw. Second violinist Scott Flavin plays a siren and a birdcall, Ross Harbaugh plays a kazoo, and Pamela McConnell plays the recorder and the electronic keyboard. All members of the quartet are called upon to play the piano. The work was premiered at the Pine Mountain Music Festival and in Festival Miami, fall 2002.

The Citizens Board, established in 1946 at the University of Miami and made up of over 300 business, professional, and civic leaders who actively support the University’s philanthropic efforts and promote UM programs, supported Festival Miami at the $2,500 level for the fifth consecutive year. The Citizens Board Select Projects Fund has raised over $260,000 to support programs designed to improve the educational experience of students in the classroom. Additionally, Citizens Board members are currently raising $10,000 for a special project of translating music into Braille – which will allow the School of Music to teach blind students to play the piano.